The National
Future Farmer
August–September, 1989

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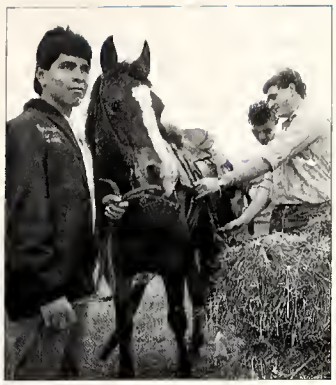
In This Issue

August-September, 1989
Volume 37 Number 6



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The Bottom Line

Events in China had a deeper meaning for your national FFA officers because they were there in Tiananmen Square just a few short weeks before the area erupted in violence. When you can recall the area and some of the people based on your recent experience, it makes the world seem so much smaller. It also proves once again that we do not live in isolation. Events throughout the world can and do affect our daily lives and your national officers have experienced this in a meaningful way.

Just what impact recent events in China will have on the long range relationship between the two countries has yet to be decided. President Bush is moving cautiously and Congress is still debating the issue. While much emphasis is being put on restricting the export of arms, it is also possible that there will be some loss of grain markets in the short term.

The lesson we can learn from this is that the world situation can change quickly. With exports accounting for much of our farm income, changing world events can have an effect down on the farm.

The importance of international agriculture has long been recognized by FFA. In addition to the national officer tour to Japan and other countries in Asia, the national proficiency award winners take a trip to Europe each year and the star farmers and agribusinessmen also go to Europe—all to study agriculture and trade from another viewpoint. The National FFA Organization also maintains an International Department that conducts Work Experience Abroad programs whereby FFA members can go to another country from three months to one year. Other international experience programs are offered from time to time as the opportunities come along.

As more FFA members participate in these programs and take their place somewhere in agriculture, they contribute to the ability of this country to compete with the rest of the world. They will also contribute to world peace and understanding.

Wilson Carnes

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News In Brief

American Royal Ambassadors

Scholarships totaling $16,000 will be awarded in November to top FFA members through the new American Royal Student Ambassador program.

There will be first, second and third place scholarship awards for both male and female winners.The two first place winners will receive $5,000 each, second place will receive $2,000 each and third place will receive $1,000 each. The scholarships will be awarded at a Presentation Dinner to be held Thursday night, November 9, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Student Ambassador program, sponsored by the American Royal, will be held for the first time in 1989, replacing the American Royal Queen contest.

Robert's Rules in Carthage

The Carthage, Missouri, FFA Chapter is once again holding the National Invitational Parliamentary Law Contest, November 7 and 8. The chapter invites each state winning parliamentary law team to compete for the national title. Last year's winner was the Baytown, Texas, FFA Chapter. Interested state-winning teams should write to: Carthage FFA Chapter, Carthage Vocational School, 609 River, Carthage, MO 64836, before September 30.

Fresh New Faces

There are some talented new people working for FFA members. Former national FFA officer Kip Godwin, Whiteville, North Carolina, began work July 1 at the National FFA Center as program coordinator in the Leadership department. Godwin will be responsible for the Washington Conference Program and Made For Excellence seminars. He fills the position opened when former program coordinator Marshall Stewart was named as the National FFA Organization's new membership specialist.

Gwynne Tingley, Lowville, New York, has joined the National FFA Foundation in Madison, Wisconsin, as regional director. She will call on current and potential FFA sponsors in the southeastern portion of the United States to support FFA programs. She is a former agriculture instructor, sales representative and 1981-82 Rhode Island FFA Association president.

Babson Honored

Photo By Bill Stagg

Nicholas C. Babson, chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Committee was named "Agri-Marketer of the Year" by the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) in Toronto earlier this year. Babson is president and chairman of the board of Babson Bros. Co., Naperville, Illinois, manufacturer of SURGE dairy equipment.

The award honors individuals who have demonstrated innovative leadership and exceptional performance in agri-marketing. Babson has moved the company in a direction of being "customer oriented" rather than "product driven" and his company's share of the dairy equipment industry remains strong despite increasing competition from foreign manufacturers.

New FFA Software

New versions of the American FFA Degree and Proficiency award application software packages are now available through the National FFA Supply Service.

Anyone owning a disk purchased since July 1, 1988 may return the disk and purchase the new version for $15.00. ACCESS members pay $13.50. People who purchased either of the software packages before June 30, 1988 can return the old disks and purchase the new version for $59.95. ACCESS members pay $53.96.

Full price for these software packages are $79.95. ACCESS members pay $76.50. When ordering the software, customers should specify a 3 1/2-inch or 5 1/4-inch disk, chapter name and number.

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Looking Ahead

What Did You Say?

According to a report in the *Washington Post*, a study in Wisconsin showed that teenagers who work on farms are much more likely than others to develop hearing loss, apparently as a result of spending time around noisy machinery such as tractors and combines.

Researchers at the Marshfield Medical Research Foundation in Marshfield, Wisconsin, interviewed and tested 872 teenage agricultural education students at 12 high schools in the farm country of central Wisconsin. Some of the students worked more than 40 hours a week on a farm; others lived in town and had no direct exposure to farm labor.

The rate of hearing loss was about twice as high in the students who spent a lot of time working on a farm as compared with those who didn't. Researchers adjusted the results to account for the possible effects of age, sex, family history of hearing loss and use of amplified music, snowmobiles or motorcycles.

The proportion of students with hearing loss in at least one ear at either high or low frequencies was 71 percent for those living and working on a farm; 74 percent for those working on a farm but living elsewhere; 36 percent for those living on a farm but not working there, and 46 percent for those reporting little or no exposure to farm work. The hearing loss is permanent.

The results, combined with reports of increased hearing loss in adult farmers, "suggest that adult hearing loss may begin in childhood," the study concluded.

As in previous studies, hearing loss was much more common in the left ear than in the right. Researchers said that is because the left ear is more likely to be exposed to engine noise, since drivers tend to look over their right shoulder, partially shielding the right ear.

There are two practical ways of reducing noise exposure in farm workers, researchers concluded. One is use of hearing protection devices such as ear plugs; only 9 percent of the students tested reported using these while working in noisy areas. The other is use of tractor cabs.

USDA Photo

Catfish Sex Change

Scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture are testing a hormone called DHT that may switch catfish gender.

The research by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is aimed at making the most of other scientists' findings that male catfish grow faster than females. The sex can be changed on young fish of many

I sit in this tree all morning freezing
wanting to move but dad said stay put
watch this trail. I know there isn't a
for miles but I also know the look I'd get i
There. Something's moving through
trees and I can't make it out. A dog. No a d
It's a deer. There's a deer coming down the trail
nobody's business. A buck...is it a buck? No a do
I can't see antlers so it must be a d...NO A BUC
It **IS** a buck. It's a big huge buck like in the magazi
and my muscles go limp, my arms don't move, my ha
are shaking and that big giant buck is still coming. Mus
move. Mustn't move or he'll spot me. His head g
behind a tree and I shift to get a better position bu
limb snaps and oh no he's looking right at me that

species by treating them with other masculinizing hormones, but those hormones have not been successful on catfish.

Scientists at Memphis State University began working in May 1988 with the ARS laboratory at Stoneville, Mississippi, on tests of DHT (dihydrotestosterone), believed to be one of the strongest hormonal agents for changing fish to males.

If evaluation of the fish shows that DHT succeeded in turning all the catfish into males, there should be little difficulty in getting Food and Drug Administration approval for human consumption of the sex-switched fish because DHT is a naturally occurring hormone in humans, according to the USDA.

"REAL" Awareness

Consumers are increasingly aware of the "REAL"® Seal symbol, a trademark that distinguishes real dairy foods from imitations, according to independent research funded by United Dairy Industry Association.

"In less than a decade, the seal has become an important symbol for consumers, enabling them to distinguish between authentic and simulated dairy products," said Steve Dohrmann, ADA vice president for marketing planning. "Because of its widespread acceptance by dairy processors, the 'REAL'® Seal has developed into a viable marketing tool for the U.S. dairy industry."

Consumer familiarity of the dairy symbol has increased to an all-time high of 68 percent in 1988, up from 20.7 percent in 1980 when the seal was introduced.

National Farm Safety Week is September 17-23. What is your chapter doing to make farming safer?

Clean Burning Corn

When President Bush announced his proposed amendments to the Clean Air Act in June, it was a breath of fresh air to America's corn growers as they saw opportunities for an expanding market for ethanol, a corn-based fuel additive.

The amendments include proposals to cut acid rain, urban smog and toxic emissions, namely car exhaust. The Bush proposal calls for car manufacturers to build 500,000 cars a year, equipped to use alternative fuels, by 1995 and 1 million a year by 1997.

According to the *AgriData News Service*, last year, 336 million bushels of corn went for ethanol production. If 50 percent of the gasoline used in the U.S. was blended with ethanol, it would create a market for over 2 billion bushels of corn. In 1987, Iowa produced just over 1.3 billion bushels of corn and Illinois harvested just over 1.2 billion bushels.

randpa of a buck is looking right at me and here I sit
ide open. I freeze solid and for two minutes I don't
reathe and the biggest deer ever is going to walk right
n by if I don't shoot. Yeah shoot...shoot now shoot
ight now right now. His head goes down
or an acorn and I raise the rifle and put
on his neck and my barrel swims all over
im and I'm going to miss. No oh no I'm
oing to miss I'm going to miss this big
ionster buck. I suck in a breath and settle
n his shoulder, squeeze the trigger, the air
xplodes and he runs off like I didn't touch
im and I can only watch him go.

I'm still in the tree waiting for the trembling to stop and finally it does so I climb down and walk to where I last saw him, take a few more steps and then I see blood. A few drops at first, then more and more until it's easy to follow and now I'm running. Running and stooping and kneeling and running again until he just has to be laying over that next rise. I cross the ridge, there's no deer and instead the trail weakens. A drop here, a drop there. I make ever-widening circles. I come back to the last drop, mark it with my hat and circle again. An hour later the hat hasn't moved. Finally I head back to camp. My glorious wall-hanger buck is gone. And the worst part is no one will believe he was ever there.

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Mailbag

China Trip

I have just seen a copy of the June-July 1989 issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

The cover is an absolutely terrific shot of the Great Wall and I would like to purchase a copy of this one issue.

I've just returned from China myself and would just love to have this magazine to add to my memories as I have been asked to speak before several groups about my trip and the culture.

Irene Shelley
San Antonio, Texas

Tractor Safety

I was hoping you could have more on tractor safety and why we need to learn it. I see lots of people who drive tractors either having more than one person on it or drinking alcohol while driving and not driving right. One of these days they are going to get hurt. They're just risking their lives, not to mention someone else's.

Monica Gray
Laurelville, Ohio

El Salvador

Having lived for a time in Central America I was interested to read your article, "El Salvador Students Experience America" in the April-May issue.

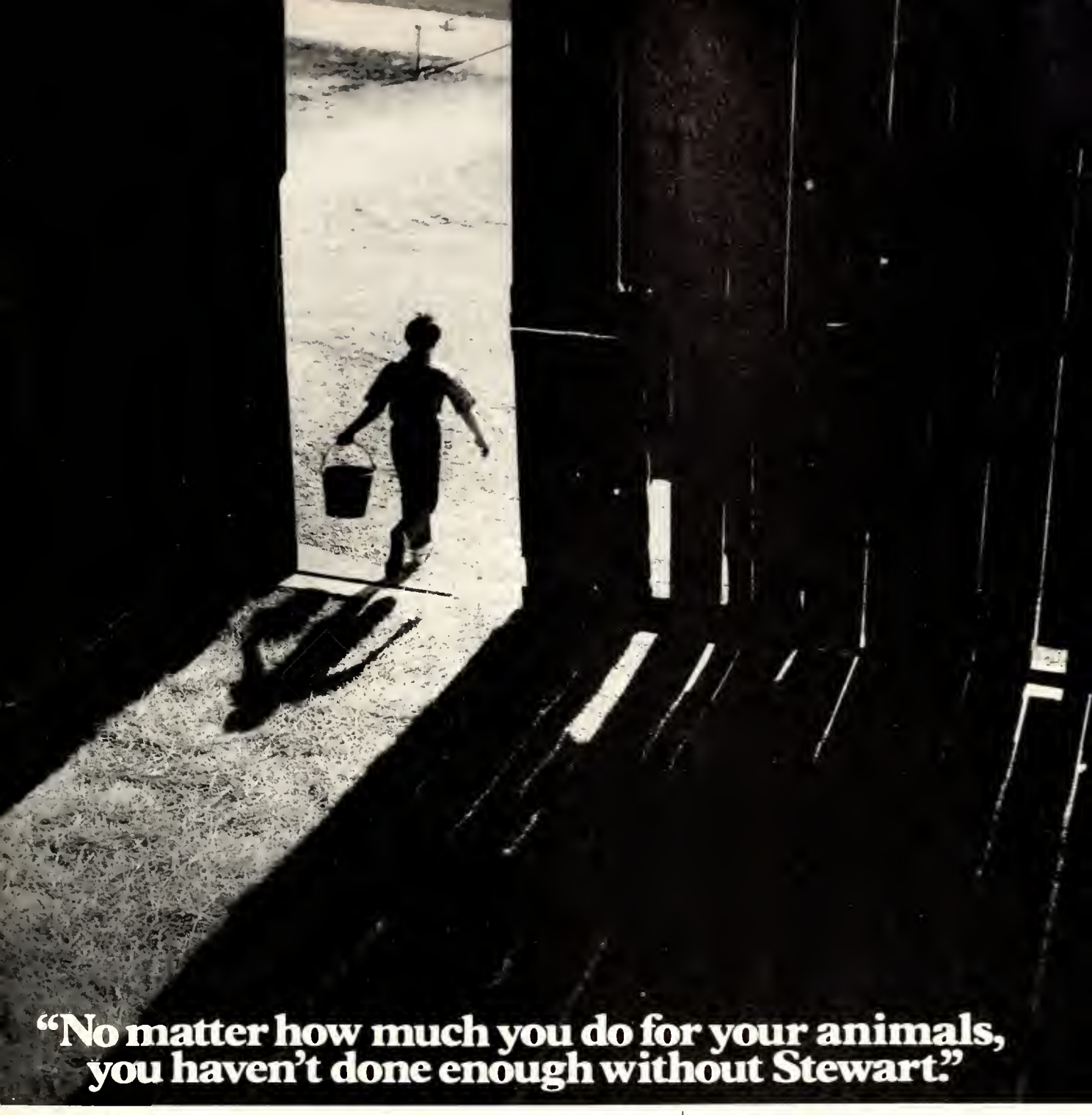
The program sounds like a great experience for everyone involved, but I couldn't help feeling a bit disturbed at your summarization of the political situation in El Salvador. When you say that "The U. S. backed government in El Salvador is opposed by communist guerilla-type troops" it creates an inaccurate portrait of the situation there. It is true that guerilla-type war exists in El Salvador, but the reality is far more complex than this simplistic, cold war statement implies and it does a disservice to the many people in El Salvador who are working and have died to improve their society.

Ernest Cole
San Luis Obispo, California

Correction

In the April-May issue, it was incorrectly reported that participation in the Building Our American Communities program had decreased from 24.6 percent of all FFA chapters in 1987 to 23.8 percent in 1988. Participation in BOAC actually increased from 20.8 percent in 1987 to 23.8 percent in 1988.—Ed.

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.



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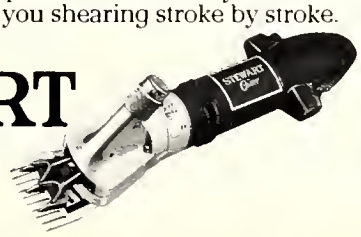

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New Frontiers in Crop Biotechnology

Plant scientists have been busy this past decade splicing plant genes and isolating "killer" bacteria to help control pests. The first wave of that research is about to hit the market.

By Warren Clark

It's a familiar mission in science fiction: "To boldly go where no man has gone before!" In today's world of plant biotechnology, fiction will soon give way to reality and our nation's crop producers will be among the first to venture into the new frontier.

Much of the biotechnology research and development done in recent years is about to hit the marketplace in the form of new commercial products. Biotech scientists are working to bring new insect and herbicide resistant plants to America's farmers. Many new biological, or naturally occurring, insecticides are also being developed and enhanced in biotech labs. In all cases the ultimate goal is the same: increase the amount of available food while reducing the cost of production and maintaining a healthy environment.

Some of the new crops and biological products use genetic engineering and many others use natural microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes and viruses).

Market-wise, biotech industry sources estimate that more than $15 billion is spent on pesticides worldwide, with about $5 billion of that total for chemical insecticides, and $2.5 billion for chemical fungicides. According to companies manufacturing biological products, there is a huge global market for their goods and a public perception that "their time has come."

Manufacturers say their research shows insects build resistance to bio-pesticides at a rate 8 to 10 times slower than to conventional chemical pesticides. Biological products may also increase user handling safety.

It's also felt bio-pesticides won't pollute the groundwater, because they break down so quickly in the soil. Many bio-pesticides are pest-specific organisms, so they degrade quickly when they are outside their intended victims. Plus, they won't kill beneficial insects.

Researchers are working on tailoring certain desired characteristics into plants by altering the DNA coding, or recombinant DNA. Already, scientists are field testing genetically engineered tomatoes, tobacco, canola (rapeseed) and soybeans that tolerate herbicide. They are also trying to introduce drought resistant genes into other crops. Still other researchers are working with viruses because they feel that's the next step after bacterial pest control.

Coming Soon...

If biotech promises such great potential, what actually has been delivered? Here's a brief summary of products related mainly to corn and soybeans and a peek at what's coming soon for fields near you.

Most bio-insecticides now sold use some selected strain of the bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis, or Bt. This is a naturally occurring soil bacteria which was discovered by scientists in the 1890's. Today's researchers are isolating and developing thousands of new strains of Bt that are hundreds of times more potent against specific insect pests.

Abbott Laboratories in North Chicago, Illinois, introduced Dipel ES in 1986 for controlling European Corn Borer and Southwestern Corn Borer in corn. Abbott claims that Dipel ES is one of the safer insecticides available today, and that it will not harm beneficial insects. Abbott also claims quick breakdown of the bio-pesticide in the soil when other soil microorganisms attack it. Corn borer caterpillars

Biotechnology: "Cutting Edge" Careers

By Ann Marie Greazel

Biotechnology offers new careers on "the cutting edge" according to Roger Bruene, Iowa State University agricultural placement director .

An obvious career choice in this exciting, expanding new field is in research, but this is just one avenue. Business, manufacturing, testing, marketing and sales careers in the biotech field are also expanding.

Communications career opportunities such as public relations, advertising and technical writing are growing. A strong background in science and biotechnology will be needed to explain the products of this new technology to others.

Bruene suggests additional course work for students wanting a background in biotechnology may include biochemistry, biophysics, biology, zoology, microbiology, genetics and agronomy, or animal science courses depending upon the students' area of interest.

Students who desire a career in research may need to continue their education beyond a 4-year college degree. Those with a master's degree may qualify for a job as a research associate, clinical technologist or college instructor. A Ph.D. is usually necessary to become a researcher, medical researcher, scientific development specialist or university instructor. At the baccalaureate level, students could obtain an entry-level position as a laboratory technician or a research assistant.

Areas of research in agricultural biotechnology include animal cell cultures, animal embryos, animal hormones, bacterial genetics, degradation and detection of pollutants in the environment, fermentation, muscle biology, nitrogen fixation and stress response in plants and animals.

aren't so lucky. Dipel works as a stomach poison to them, and the worm stops feeding within an hour after its first bite of a sprayed plant; its gut is paralyzed by Bt bacteria. Typically, death occurs in two to three days.

Mycogen Corporation in San Diego, California, is the only biotech company trying to develop a bio-herbicide using the Alternaria cassiae fungus.

"Our Casst herbicide uses this beneficial fungus to kill sicklepod and coffee senna weeds," explains Joe Brumley, marketing director, "and that's good news for soybean and peanut growers. Casst has been field tested an Experimental Use Permit (EUP) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We expect it will be available by 1990."

On the insecticide front, Mycogen has received full registration from the EPA for their M-One bio-pesticide that combats Colorado potato beetles. It's targeted toward potato, tomato and eggplant growers and demonstrates the time and cost savings in bio-pesticide development.

Mycogen intends to develop products that fit into certain markets where pest resistance has built up against chemical products, and thus encourage the "bio-conversion" of the entire agrichemical industry.

Self Defense

Still another biotech approach is to equip the crop with its own defenses. How about plants that produce a natural insecticide inside their own tissue? No more worries about spray timing and weather conditions! Just wait for the worms to bite–and die.

Crop Genetics International (CGI) of Hanover, Maryland, is inoculating seeds with a genetically engineered bacteria that multiplies inside the plant to produce a protein that's toxic to corn borers. CGI's new, Bt-based "InCide" is being tested for the second summer. Registration expected in 1990.

"The altered bacteria travels through the plant's vascular system to the roots, stalks and leaves," explains Dr. Peter Carlson, chief scientific officer and vice president/co-founder of CGI. "It's always there, so it kills the second generation of borers later in the season. But the material doesn't stay in the seed. It also doesn't affect the plant's nutritional makeup. Because InCide isn't part of the plant's DNA coding, it can't be passed onto the next generation. It dies with the plant at the end of the season because it can't survive outside its host plant."

Ecogen of West Langhorne, Pennsylvania, introduced Dagger G for cotton, the first EPA-registered bio-fungicide based on live bacteria. Their extensive Bt library consists of more than 5,000 strains collected since 1983, and product development agreements with Monsanto Company, American Cyanamid, PruTech, MLTV and EniChem, should put the company in a position of introducing a wide variety of bio-pesticides for farmers, foresters, consumers and public health over the next several years.

Ecogen has developed a combination Colorado potato beetle and European cornborer product called Foil bio-insecticide. Similarly, other products to kill corn borers, corn earworms, soybean loopers and armyworms are in the works. Finally, a bio-herbicide currently being marketed that benefits two crops is Collego, a product that uses a live fungus to control northern jointvetch in rice and soybean fields.

Designer Genes

Several biotech companies are taking the long range view of bio-product development by doing recombinant DNA (r-DNA) work on plants. They're altering the plant's genetic pattern by splicing in a foreign gene from another plant, or bacterium (combining the DNA), to produce a new plant with one or more additional useful traits. Because r-DNA is so costly in time and money, but so valuable, these companies are investigating a wide variety of potentially useful traits while they also pursue corporate sponsorships. Ecogen is participating in this development via partnerships. Monsanto and EniChem will use their technologies for inserting Ecogen-cloned toxin genes into plants such as corn and sunflowers. Their goal is to grow plants resistant to insects that attack these crops.

"Herbicide tolerance is the smaller part of the work being done at Calgene," explains Dr. Robert Goodman, executive vice president of research and development arm of the Davis, California company. "Most of our work is directed toward improving other plant qualities." Nonetheless, they have developed tomatoes and tobacco that can withstand more than ten times the normal application rate of Roundup herbicide. But building such genetic tolerance into corn and soybeans is proving much tougher than transferring genes into tomatoes and tobacco.

Iowa State University Photo

Researchers at universities and private businesses are finding ways to control pests through biotechnology.

What about the possible toxic danger of people and livestock eating herbicide tolerant plants? Goodman thinks there should be no problem, due to the ways in which the plants handle the herbicide. He points out that research will answer that question, but to remember that "a certain species of wheat is naturally tolerant to an herbicide used in its fields, and loaves of bread are made from that wheat every day. Why should a genetically engineered plant be any different?"

(Continued on Page 39)

Something Special About FFA

By Jack Pitzer

The dog obedience project is a successful one for members. John Moore, left, and Tembi Buckingham demonstrate their successes.

Photos by Author

John Moore helps special ed teacher Ted Martch show ou[t] ag department and land lab at the sch[ool]

John Moore raised a lamb, sold it at the fair and made enough money to pay all his costs, pay back the loan, and then buy himself an FFA jacket and an FFA tie. When I asked him how he liked having his own FFA jacket he looked me in the eye and said, "When I wear my jacket, I feel normal." John is multiply handicapped including being legally blind and hearing impaired.

His heart-grabbing testimony for what FFA can be for a student is an exciting example that the tradition of combining agricultural classroom studies, Supervised Agricultural Experience, and FFA can work for any high school student.

John is an enthusiastic member of the Douglas, Oregon FFA Chapter. He is one of a dozen special education students who are enrolled in agricultural education and are members of the FFA.

Chapter advisor John Baird and special education teacher Ted Martch have established an excellent program which mainstreams the special students into agriculture. The ag department land lab is on the school grounds and is perhaps the hub of the experience programs for these members.

Adjacent to the lab is the special module facility (like a house) for special education with its own classroom, office, washer/dryer, lockers and washrooms. It was landscaped by the FFA members.

The special education students are totally part of FFA and that has made their learning experience meaningful. It has made an impact because FFA and Agricultural Education allows them to do many things beyond what they ever thought possible. In fact the FFA experiences have shown parents that their son or daughter could do many things most special education students wouldn't get to try.

Steve Gould is a good example. He earned the State FFA Degree this spring at the state convention in Bend. He was interviewed for the degree and came through with flying colors.

He was born with a mild case of cerebral palsy affecting his coordination and the strength on his left side. At his job though, he has managed to use tools and get around the challenges of his limitations. Steve works as a horticulturist and landscaper at Wildlife Safari with responsibility to keep the entrance area groomed, and add new plantings as needed.

According to Bob Craft, chief horticulturist at Wildlife Safari and an aid for the ag department on contract with the high school, the special education students are taught without delaying the progress for the other agricultural education students. When necessary the special ed kids leave the ag classroom for hands on instruction with Mr. Craft in the land lab, greenhouse, or other work sights.

Wildlife Safari is a local operation on several hundred acres, open for the public to drive through and to visit. It includes animals from Africa, Asia and America each in separate sections of the park. This means a variety of horticultural job opportunities for FFA members.

Steve began working as a helper there, but with instruction from Mr. Craft, he is assuming more and more responsibility.

In 1988 Steve Gould went to the national convention in Kansas City. Like many FFA members who succeed, Steve has a strong positive attitude and that has propelled him into mainstream life and social activities as well as at school. He has developed as a major leader in the chapter and especially with his fellow members who came to agriculture from special education.

Chapter president Tembi Buckingham has worked hard, too, with Steve and the others to get them rolling in FFA. She pushed Steve to fill out his application for the state degree and helped him with his records and preparing for the interview.

She is also part of a cadet teacher program that is very popular at Douglas. Students like Tembi and Lauri Hubbard get school credit for their work as cadet teachers. Duties include supervision of the land lab—feeding and care and operation of animals there, coordinating work for all FFA members.

According to an article by chapter reporter Angie Thomas, president Tembi has volunteered much time and effort for the special education students in order to help them learn and associate well with other students. Angie calls her their "FFA connection."

Tembi Buckingham, Steve Gould and Lauri Hubbard with some of the project goats in the land lab. Special education members feed and care for them and Tembi and Lauri make certain they know how and when.

Tembi has given special emphasis to helping her fellow members learn how to trim and fit their lambs for the fair and sale. She is a reliable source of help for their classroom work and school projects; and she is a persistent coach for their work with SAE projects.

After graduation, Tembi plans to study special education at the university. She says what she enjoys most about working with the "kids" is when their faces light up after accomplishing something they didn't think they could do.

The special education department members have spent considerable time with two golden retrievers training them to obey. Tembi and other chapter leaders have helped them get the project organized to carry out on their own.

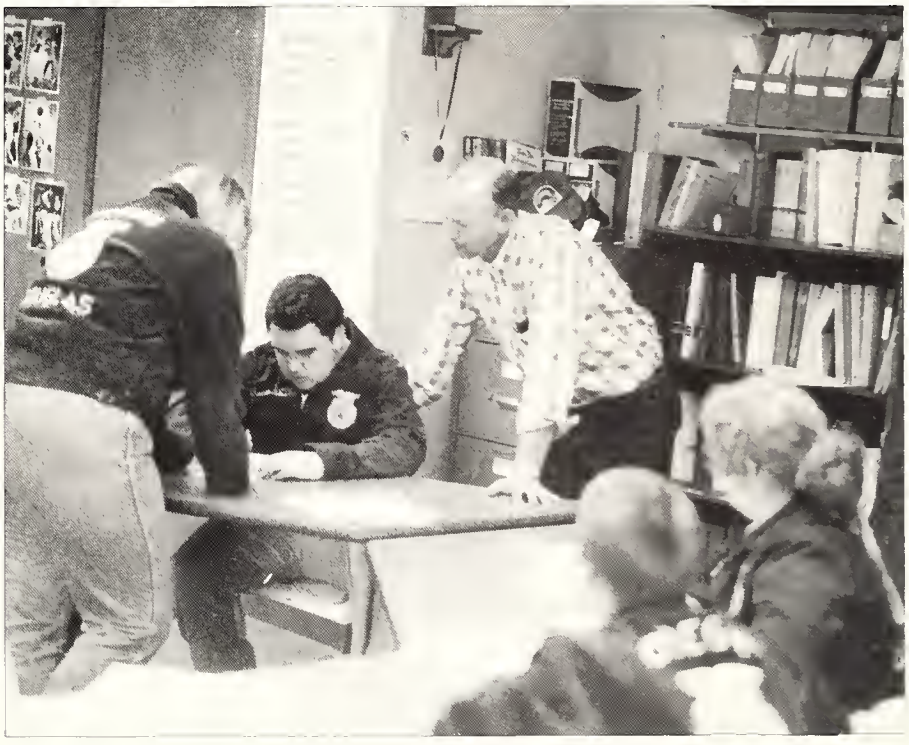
Besides care for the dogs, the eager students have constructed a dog house; had to learn to fix tighter, more secure fences; and pay for damage when the pups escaped and killed a chicken in the land lab. It's all part of the training on how to solve typical day-to-day problems.

Real life experiences for these members included talk of going to the prom. They had plans and were all set. It was the big topic in the back of the van as we went to a project sight for a community development effort. Special education members of the chapter have begun work to fix up a town park and landscape around the caretakers house. It is the beginning of a BOAC project.

The chapter makes a strong effort to help the special education members earn their Greenhand Degree. Each one has an SAEP such as a lamb or rabbits at the school land lab. They learn to say at least part of the Creed. Sam Holcomb recited the FFA Motto at the FFA Banquet.

It was an exciting chapter visit to see the enthusiasm and cooperation among chapter members. Something special in their faces captures your attention. •••

Lauri Hubbard, left, helped Rick Addis, Amy Wagner and Sam Holcomb study the FFA motto. Advisor Baird is in the background while cadet teachers do their job.



FFA Today To Hit Airwaves

Watch for the blue and gold on TV this fall

By Lynn Hamilton

It's a Saturday in September and you've got an hour to kill.

You grab the TV remote, prepared to drive your family crazy as you challenge your record for channel changes per minute. Flipping through the stations, you hear the strains of a screaming guitar. Hey, what was that? Van Halen? M-TV? Better flip back.

Bright graphics splash across the screen as your ears tune in to the rock music and catch these lyrics: "Proud to say, FFA Today/Do it the American way!"

FFA? On TV? Absolutely!

Photo by Ben Weddle

Former national FFA officers David Pearce and Kelli Evans relax while videotaping the preview of *FFA Today* in Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. They will co-host the new monthly video magazine to be broadcast nationwide starting this fall.

FFA Today is a new video magazine designed to give you upbeat, exciting information on what's happening in agriculture and the FFA, according to Bryan Winsby, president of Heartland Communications and producer of the show.

Each month, a one-hour program will be broadcast, highlighting such topics as agriscience, international agriculture, marketing and the environment. Regular departments and special reports will focus on FFA activities, Winsby says.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to inform FFA members and the public about the exciting new developments in agriculture," Winsby adds.

Some familiar FFA faces will bring you the stories. Kelli Evans, Hayes Center, Nebraska, and David Pearce, Warrensburg, Missouri, will co-host the show. They're both former national FFA officers and will travel around the country to give you a firsthand look at where the action in agriculture is today.

Evans is very enthusiastic about her involvement with *FFA Today*. "The best part about this show is that it sheds a whole new light on the FFA," she says. "Anyone involved with your organization will feel a sense of pride that we are being spotlighted in this way."

William F. Stagg, FFA director of information, says it's vital that members help promote the show in their communities. "To ensure the success of the program, we must demonstrate that we have an audience," he stresses. "We need each of the 405,000 FFA members to step in to the reporter's role and make sure that 'every man, woman and child' knows about *FFA Today*."

The show, which will be broadcast on independent and affiliate TV stations as well as by satellite, should reach most areas of the country on the first broadcast in September. It is slated to run on the third weekend of each month.

Stagg suggests several ideas to help members spread the word about the show. Send a brief article about the show to your school and local newspapers and contact radio stations. Distribute flyers announcing the show at shopping centers and in local businesses. Most importantly, make sure that you, your family, and all your friends tune in to the program this fall.

The FFA will benefit greatly from the success of the show, Stagg predicts. "Increased enrollment and membership could result," he says. "By portraying an exciting image of agriculture and introducing the FFA to millions of Americans, it should help generate support for the organization on all levels."

The idea for the show was born two years ago when the FFA began live satellite broadcasts of the national convention over satellite. Winsby and his wife, Carol, started on the project last September, after working with the FFA on other video productions.

"We wanted a chance to demonstrate what agriculture really is," Winsby says. "Until now, nothing has looked at the big picture of agriculture, and we want FFA to be the focal point of this information.

"I truly believe in what the FFA stands for," he emphasizes. "I hope *FFA Today* will help all Americans realize the importance of what these young men and women are accomplishing."

FFA Today, the show that spotlights FFA members, premieres on September 23. Check your local listings, tune in and save the channel-flipping for another day.

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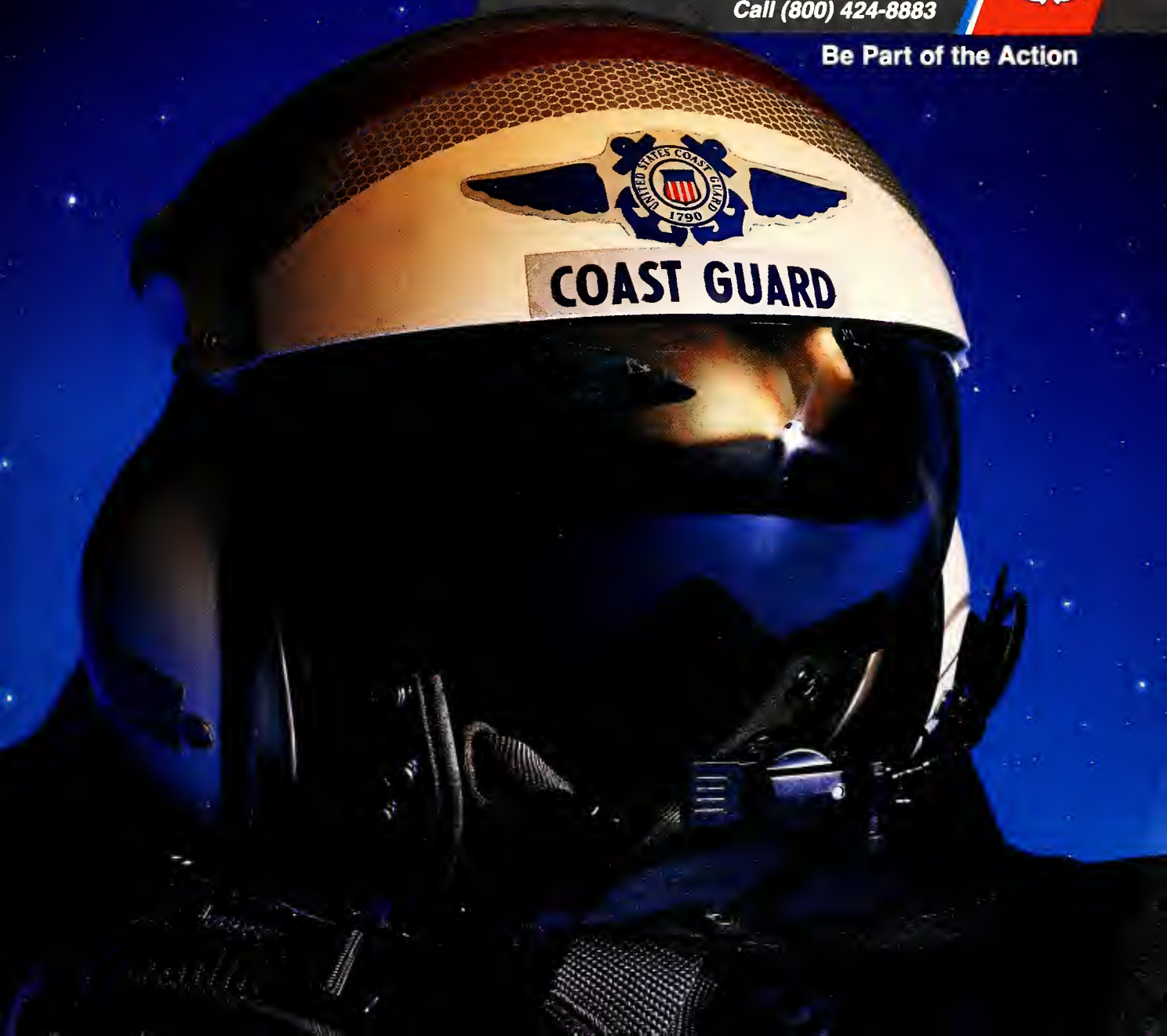


Chapter Officer Leadership Training

By Mary Pat Finn-Hoag

"Welcome Aboard."

"You are here on a mission—to be the best you can be—to be the best chapter officer."

The challenge came from 1989-90 Nebraska FFA President, Jill Lorenz of Crete, as she addressed chapter officers attending one of four recent Nebraska leadership sessions.

The 1989 Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) sessions drew more that 700 FFA members from 112 chapters to the Nebraska Youth Leadership Development Center at Aurora.

Theme was "Shooting for the Stars," with the participating FFA members referred to as cadets in training. "Mission specialist" was Rich Katt, executive secretary of the Nebraska FFA Association who has coordinated the COLT conferences since 1982. Julie Classen of Blue Hill, 1988-89 Nebraska FFA president, was the "astro command rover" (actuallu the leadership administrative assistant).

The cadets were divided into mission groups named after shuttles including "Atlantis," "Voyager," "Columbia" and "Discovery."

Each year, the nine state officers are in charge of designing and coordinating the four COLT conferences, held following the conclusion of the school year. Each runs four days.

COLT conferences began in Nebraska on the district level in 1952. After several years, the sessions merged statewide and were conducted at Camp Merrill at Fullerton.

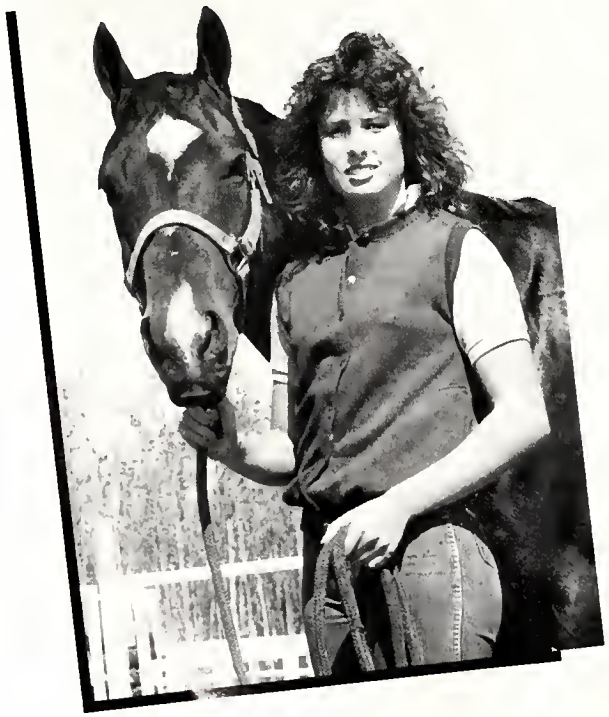
The thrust of COLT is to assist officers in assuming their duties. This year's sessions also focused on the changes in the national and Nebraska FFA constitutions and chapter public relations and leadership development workshop plans.

"We try to have a lot of fun coupled with a lot of solid learning," Katt said. From the COLT sessions, the chapter officers "take home workable ideas for their chapters. The students get motivated. The advisors also get energized," he said.

Katt said that the four COLT conferences "really pull Nebraska FFA together. Our state association is very closeknit. There's a feeling of unity and pride among all of the FFA members."

The sessions are the state officers' very first activity following their election in April. "COLT is really an incredible responsibility at the onset of their term. It's one of the best training activities (for them). They jump right in and learn how to be a state officer."

Image, pride and unity were key words at the 1989 COLT conferences. "An objective of the 1989 COLT conferences was to help create an understanding for the changes," Katt said. "When the FFA members understand the changes in agriculture, for example, they can better un-



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derstand the changes being made by the FFA organization. We're not deserting the production side of who we are. The FFA needed something to enhance our image, our agribusiness side, and to broaden FFA activities to include the agribusiness side."

"Good things are going on within the FFA," Katt said, using revision of agricultural education curriculum as an example. The result is that "new schools (without agricultural education courses and FFA programs) are excited."

"The whole atmosphere of change has permeated the entire ag industry; it's very positive," Katt said.

Rap sessions were conducted throughout the 1989 COLT conferences to allow participants a chance to voice their opinions—pro and con—on the constitutional changes.

In a session for chapter presidents led by Lorenz, a number of the students indicated they would have joined FFA as junior high school students had they been offered the opportunity.

Some agreed that beginning at the junior high level may lead to burn-out by the end of one's high school years. However, the youths felt that junior high membership would allow FFA members an earlier start on Supervised Agricultural Experience programs and would be an excellent way to get younger members involved in such areas as Building Our American Communities and safety projects.

"The constitutional changes are positive," Lorenz said.

"The FFA is broadening our horizons to change with the times. The emphasis is still on production agriculture but we're broadening our horizons to include other aspects of agriculture. The time has come."

Lorenz described the COLT conferences as "a lot of fun and you learn a lot. I can't begin to tell you how much it helped me achieve my goals."

"It rocks," she said of COLT.

Classen said that during the COLT conferences she "witnessed a lot of enthusiasm and excitement for the new ideas and concepts that they (chapter officers) learn. The members really united with one another, no matter where they're from, and became good friends."

Jaye Hamby of Benton, Tennessee, eastern region vice president, was one of five of the national FFA officers who assisted with the 1989 COLT sessions.

Hamby, in his first visit to Nebraska, said he was impressed with the concept of the COLT conferences, "from top to bottom. Nebraska is certainly to be commended for its super ag programs. The quality of Nebraska's programs speaks for itself. The attitude of each FFA member at COLT has been incredible. I watch them rally around each other; it's such a feeling of comraderie. There's the opportunity to touch so many lives here."

Hamby also had high praise for the Nebraska Youth Leadership Development Center which includes an indoor swimming pool, motel and cabins. "The facilities are fascinating; it's such an exclusive facility."

In July, the center hosted about 400 Nebraska FFA members attending their choice of one of two Pursuing Excellence Achievement and Knowledge (PEAK) sessions, also coordinated by the state FFA officer team. The focus is on personal leadership development including public speaking skills and personal image projection, Katt said. •••

Katt said that the four COLT conferences "really pull Nebraska FFA together. Our state association is very closeknit . There's a feeling of unity and pride among all of the FFA members."

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The Horse Course

Equine science and management classes are gaining popularity in high schools across the country

By Michelle Domangue

Jeremy Cox, Carol Holmes and Nicole Wright live in vastly different regions of the country. Most likely, they've never met—and never will. But they share something each says was enjoyable and worthwhile: credit for a high school course in equine science/horse management, an area of instruction popping up more and more around the country.

Patsy Wiginton Photos

For equine science students David Solis, Scott Salas and Shawn Kacer (left to right) of Tidehaven, Texas, textbook pages come alive when you work with the real thing.

As agricultural educators seek to modernize courses and attract students, many states have turned to specific courses in various areas of agriculture. Equine science as a class to itself—for a semester, a year or even longer—has taken off in quite a few places, including schools in Kentucky, New Jersey and Oklahoma.

For Cox, an FFA member and recent graduate of Woodford County High School in Versailles, Kentucky, two years in a co-op program led to a full-time job on a horse farm.

Teacher Marti Butler began the school's equine science program four years ago "to meet the demands of farms," she says. In the central Kentucky county west of Lexington, her students work mainly with mares and foals on the many Thoroughbred breeding farms surrounding the school.

Her 10 to 15 students a year work three hours each day, then spend an hour in class, where "the emphasis is on practicality," she says. "They keep records, discuss what's happened on the farms that day. Units correspond to what's going on on the farms at that time." She tries to keep course content "as useful for them as possible."

Butler notes her students are all paid—not just in money, but also in course credit and work experience. Afterward, "some go right to work, some on to college," she adds.

The co-op program "helped me understand more than just the farm I was at," says Cox. "You need to be exposed to a lot, to see different aspects."

Cox found himself studying the biological side of the horse business—the theory behind what he did all morning in his part-time job. The combination work/classroom experience was "most definitely better than on-the-job training," he says. "People you work for often don't have time to explain why they're doing what they're doing. (Studying) equine science brings into focus what the manager and veterinarian are doing. You learn there are standard procedures."

Though Kentucky has long been known for horses, programs like Woodford County's are new. It's one of only two in the state, says Butler, with a third ready to launch this fall. Semester courses in equine science (non-co-op) will be introduced in the fall of 1990, she adds.

Several states away, graduate Carol Holmes just completed two years of horse management courses at Lawton High School in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Lawton teacher Don Armes mixes hands-on activities at the school's 80-acre farm with plenty of science study—in anatomy, reproduction and nutrition. "We're going to know a horse from top to bottom when we're through," he says.

Oklahoma's horse industry has traditionally focused on Quarterhorse production. But with recent voter approval of legalized track betting and construction of the ultramodern Remington Park in Oklahoma City, the horse business is expanding rapidly.

Armes' students learn some about Thoroughbreds, but the focus is still on Quarterhorses, he says. Area farms breed Quarterhorses to work on ranches and for pleasure, rodeo use and racing, he explains.

Lawton's is the only regular high school equine program in the state right now. (An area vocational/technical school in Wayne, Oklahoma, also offers equine training to high school students and adults.) The State Department of Vocational-Technical Education has definite plans to make an equine science curriculum available to other schools in the future.

"Equine is big business here in Oklahoma," says Eddie Smith, state vocational agriculture supervisor. "We have a need

to educate students to pursue these job opportunities. We're pushing for it because we have a demand for it."

It's also part of an overall effort to modernize the agricultural curriculum and draw new groups of students, he adds. Like many states, Oklahoma had begun to see some decline in ag enrollments.

For Holmes, the course offered a chance to begin preparing for a career in veterinary medicine. Though her family has six horses and she knew quite a bit going in, "I really learned a lot," she says. "It gave me a chance to be around other horses besides my own."

Equine instruction at Allentown High School in Allentown, New Jersey, on the other hand, isn't new. Agriculture teacher Jack Roszel wrote the curriculum 16 years ago.

In designing the course, "certainly one of the first," Roszel included both hands-on and theory. "We've always tried to stress the science end with our ag program," he says. "One veterinarian said our program is similar to first-year college level."

His wife, Cindy, has been teaching Horse Care and Management there the last 10 years. Her students learn "a little bit of everything—covering breeds, judging, leg problems, diseases and parasites, reproduction, breeding, nutrition, genetics and safety.

"One veterinarian said our program is similar to first-year college level."

The school doesn't have a horse right now, but the school buildings are set in the middle of "the largest Standardbred breeding farms in the nation (by acreage)," a resource she makes good use of. Some of those farms regularly call the school to find potential employees.

Junior Nicole Wright found the class fun and relevant to her career goals. She's looking at colleges now for future study in equine science and business management. Wright thinks other students are attracted for "both fun and career preparation." With the horse business near the top of agricultural industries in New Jersey, "some just take it to see what it's all about," she says.

Agriculture teachers in a least two other New Jersey high schools plan similar programs to start in the near future.

Equine science courses have proven

(Continued on Page 22)

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The Horse Course

(Continued from Page 21)

popular in Texas, as well, where 94 schools offered instruction to more than 1,700 students last fall, says Walter York, state FFA executive secretary. Officials in Michigan and Virginia report separate equine courses will start in their states this fall, too.

Of course, students in many other states study the horse within broader agriculture courses—like animal science. In Florida, for instance, state FFA Executive Secretary Danny Bartlett reports interest and instruction in equine science is on the rise, as shown by better than 80 teams participating in a recent statewide judging contest.

In Wisconsin, too, interest has boomed, says Kevin Keith, agricultural education supervisor. Four years ago, the horse received little attention in Wisconsin high school agriculture classes, he says. Today, a statewide horse-judging contest is in its third year; units on equine science have been developed for implementation this fall; and plans are being hatched for a state horse show next year, he says. •••

Like Delwin Morgan of Bay City, Texas, over 1,700 high school agriculture students signed up for a new equine science class offered in the Lone Star State last year. It is one of the most popular courses in Texas.

Life in the Fast Lane

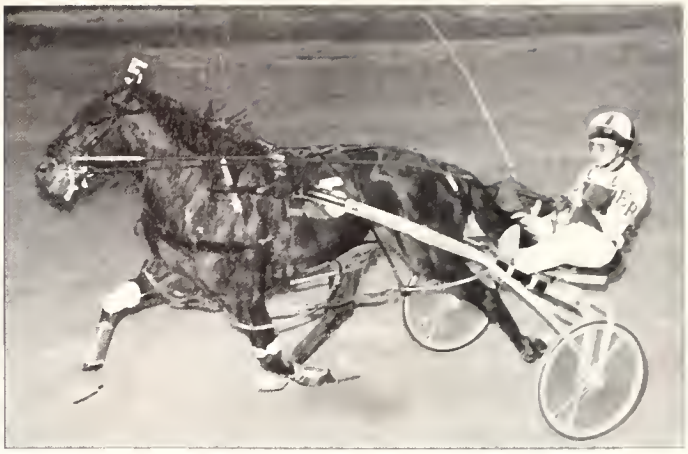


Photo by Bert and Associates

Eric Reese drives his father's horse, Lord of the Ranch, at the 1988 Williams County Fair in Montpelier, Ohio.

Former FFA member Eric Reese may never "run for the roses" at the Kentucky Derby, but he's definitely got his eye set on the winner's circle in the harness racing circuit.

Eric, son of Jerry and Patricia Reese of Laura, Ohio, is a first year student at The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute (OSU/ATI), in Wooster, majoring in Horse Production and Management.

The 20-year-old was first introduced to the sport of harness racing as a youngster while attending a county fair with his father, an avid horse enthusiast. A summer job at the R.J. Brown Stables in Troy, Ohio and a close relationship between the owner, R.J. Brown, helped to develop a desire as well as knowledge for the fast-paced sport.

As a member of the Newton FFA Chapter, Eric says he developed a keen eye in evaluating horses by participating in the livestock judging contest with the help of advisor Kirk Kadel. He also served as chapter secretary and reporter.

"After graduating from (high school), I took a job in the industry and acquired a number of 'Jog Miles'," Eric said. "I learned to train and in 1987, drove two horses for my father. It wasn't a good year," he added with a smile.

The following year, Eric took a second in this first start and followed it with a third place honor. Later that year, on his home town track, Miami County Fair Grounds, he stood in the Winner's Circle for the first time.

"I was so thankful we had friends that got the win on videotape," said Eric's father. "We replay that scene may times. It was a moment we will never forget. I still get goose bumps talking about it."

Eric's major at OSU/ATI offers a Standardbred option that runs a public stable where clients pay to have their horses broke, trained and /or raced. Students, under a personal supervisor, receive hands-on experience in all phases of the industry.

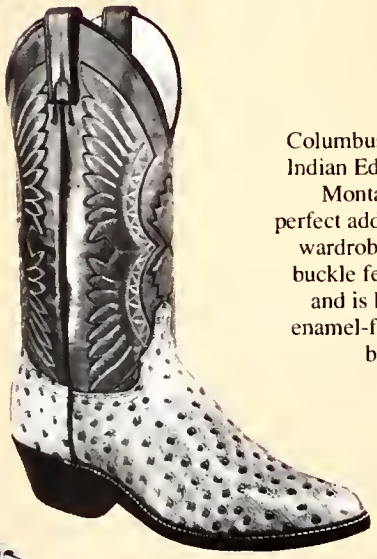
Ericsays he plans on pursuing a career in harness racing and training Standardbreds for competition. -- *ATI News* •••

What's New in Western Style

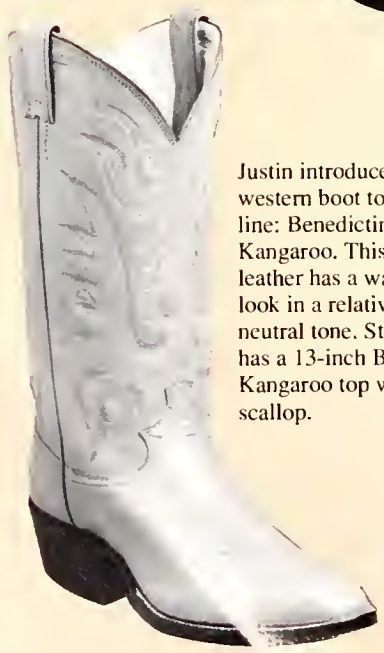
Lucchese's 883 Roper Series, designed for men and women, features the same Lucchese handmade quality recognized by boot wearers worldwide. It also features a one-year guarantee against normal defects in workmanship or materials.

Bruce Ford, five time World Champion Bareback Rider, endorses Miller brand western-style shirts designed and manufactured by Miller Western Wear. Miller brand shirts are durable, rugged and affordably priced. Shown is just one shirt from the Fall 1989 line.

Abilene Boot Company—Silverado Ranch Boot - 13", Grey Leather Ostrich Print with Matching Urethane Shaft and New Aztec Indian Stitch Upper Pattern, Vikofoam Cushion Insole, Western Underslung Heel, Suede Composition Outsole, Goodyear Welt Construction.



Columbus, Montana—The new Indian Edge Eagle Buckle from Montana Silversmiths is the perfect addition to every western wardrobe. This 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" buckle features an Eagle figure and is highlighted with an enamel-filled Indian border.



Justin introduces a new western boot to its exotic line: Benedictine Kangaroo. This exotic leather has a warm rich look in a relatively neutral tone. Style 8057 has a 13-inch Benedictine Kangaroo top with a deep scallop.

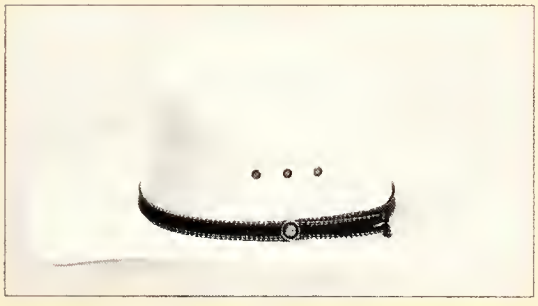
These four Tony Lama's Lady Lama lizard boots add a dressy touch to even a basic pair of jeans or denim skirt. The four colors range from mild earth tones to forest green and red.

Shown left to right are Stock 62011, chocolate lizard foot with chocolate kidd top; Stock 62012, forest green lizard foot and forest green Lama suede top; Stock 62013, peanut brittle lizard foot with inca kidd top and Stock 62014, red lizard foot and red saga top. All feature the popular 11-inch tops and ultra-lite soles for a trimmer look.

The 1989-90 line from America's Bootmaker has a variety of outstanding boot styles to satisfy every lifestyle *and* every pocketbook. From popular-priced Texas Brand Western and Work Boots to quality handcrafted Imperials and the hand-crafted J. Chisholm Exotics, America's Bootmaker offers the finest in materials and workmanship to make every pair of boots the best value possible.

J. Chisholm Men's Handcrafted Lizard Boots—Black Genuine Teju Lizard designs in two popular styles: left - 970N Lizard foot and 13" Black Horsehair deep dip scallop top. right - 960 Lizard foot and 13" Black Softee deep dip scallop top.

Make a bold statement in this neon stripe Rodeo Club shirt from Panhandle Slim for ladies. The oversized short sleeves camp shirt has the Panhandle Slim Rodeo Club logo embossed on the front pocket and back, and features a back yoke and white buttons. The 100 percent cotton shirt is offered in neon pink, neon lime and neon orange in sizes S-XL. It is also available in boys' sizes 4-7 and 8-20, girls' sizes 4-6x and 7-14 and men's sizes S-XL.

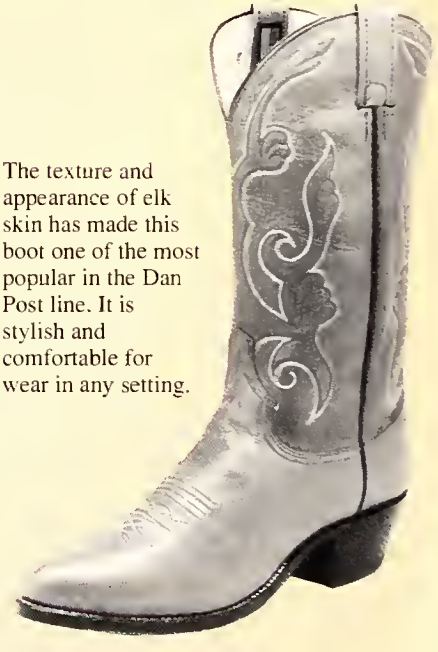


The tastefully executed Spindletop from the Larry Mahan Straw Collection, features a laced weave treatment, trimmed with an exclusive red and black braided band with antique brass concho. This hand-woven Shantung is from the Milano Hat Company, Garland, Texas.

Walls has added new ice-washed denim, ice-washed canvas, and traditional denim styles to its popular Canyon and Long Rider jackets.

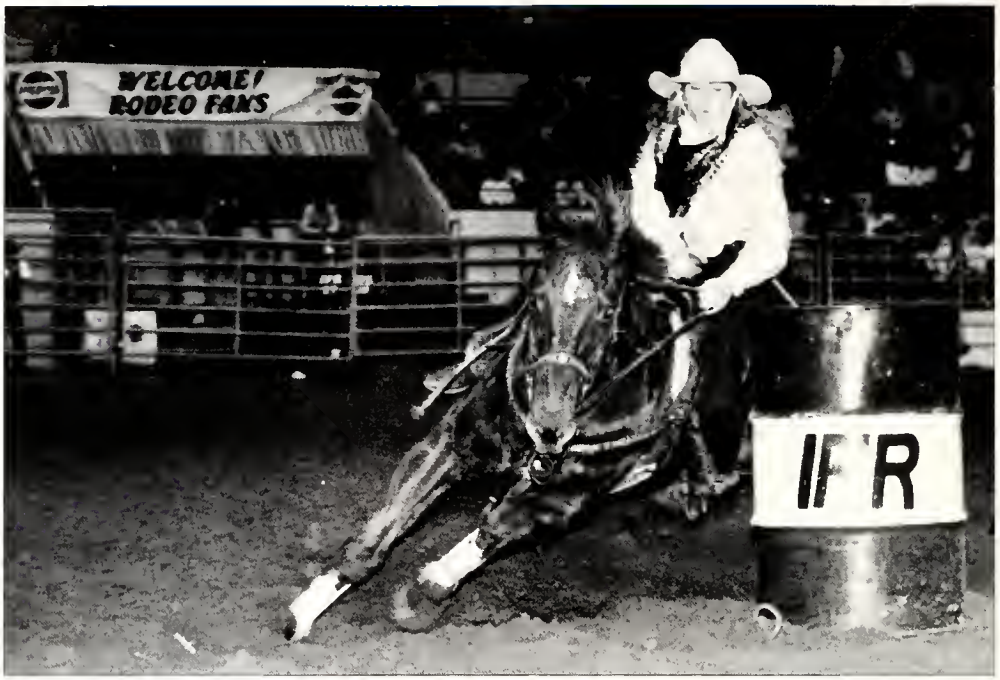
All canvas models feature comfortable, natural cotton canvas with a stain and water repellent Quarpel finish.

The texture and appearance of elk skin has made this boot one of the most popular in the Dan Post line. It is stylish and comfortable for wear in any setting.



World Champion, Almost

By Charlotte Anne Smith



Tracy Postrach, of the Nowata, Oklahoma, Chapter, talks to her horse as she rounds a barrel at the International Professional Rodeo Association Finals held at Tulsa. She placed second to the champion in the barrel racing.

Few FFA projects have the potential to carry the student to a national championship, but Tracy Postrach of Nowata, Oklahoma, almost did with hers. Her project is horses and she came in a close second to the world champion barrel racer at the national finals of the International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA).

This was Tracy's third time to qualify for the finals even though she is only a junior in Nowata High School. She competed two years, sat out a year because her horse was ill, and returned this year to place second. If she had won the title, it would have been the first time a brother-sister team had done so. Her brother, Terry, was named World Champion Calf Roper for the second time. Their parents are Terry Sr. and Beverly Postrach of Nowata.

"Tracy started competing when she was four or five," her mother said. "She got her first real barrel horse when she was seven. She won champion barrel racer in the Oklahoma Junior Rodeo Association five times and all-around three. She also competed in poles, girl's calf roping and flags."

Last year, Tracy also made the finals of the National High School Rodeo Association and while she didn't win the top prize, she was in the money three times and placed eighth over-all.

"It took time away from my IPRA shows, but it was something I just wanted to do," Tracy said. "I had fun. It's something I may never get to do again."

A typical week for Tracy calls for hours of practice and then it's off to one or more shows on the weekend, sometimes as far away as California—if the money is high enough and others are going along to share the traveling expenses and driving.

During the summer, most of the shows she competes in take her to Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas. When the cold weather hits she heads for the indoor shows in Indiana, Ohio and the Chicago area. She says the worst things about these long trips is the lack of sleep.

"You just about get to sleep and it's time to stop and walk the horses," she said. "You have to stop and walk them every four hours or it's too hard on them."

Tracy's main horse is an 18-year-old which hasn't shown any signs of slowing down. She recently bought a 10-year-old for a back-up and to have as a replacement when the time comes.

In addition to the rodeos, Tracy competes in a number of jackpot barrel races especially during the winter months.

"I go to Martha Josie's National Junior World Barrel Racing contest every year," Tracy said. "It's held at Marshall, Texas. The best I've done so far is fourth, but there were 366 entered this year. I got three runs in the top 20."

Tracy has been a member of the Nowata High School FFA Chapter for three years. In addition to her horse project she also has steer and swine projects showing at the area fairs and livestock shows. Dean McKee is her advisor.

Along with top-notch FFA projects, Tracy is also an accomplished artist. She studies under wildlife artist Susan Thomas. One of her projects combines her two loves, horses and art. She decorates halter, headstalls, breast collars and belts by sewing intricate beads in colorful patterns. She makes these for herself and has begun selling them to other riders.

Tracy is still working on her future plans. "I may go to college and study art or I may just rodeo full time," she said. "I just haven't decided."

She may not have made up her mind on that subject, but her long string of wins shows that she intends to be a champion.

Strong Demand for Ag Graduates

The nation's colleges of agriculture have good news for students: there are more jobs in the ag industry than there are graduates.

The news came from deans of seven agricultural universities and colleges nationwide, who were interviewed by Purdue University's School of Agriculture to get their view of the job market for this year's class of agriculture graduates.

Although the survey did show a decrease again this year in the number of agricultural graduates, it also showed more companies are increasing recruitment activities on campus.

"It is a more competitive market for graduates," said Allan D. Goecker, assistant dean of agriculture at Purdue University's School of Agriculture in West Lafayette, Indiana. "Both employers and students are making earlier commitments this year."

Last winter twice as many recruiters visited Purdue as two years ago. In October, 40 corporate recruiters attended Purdue's annual Agriculture Career Day, one-third more than a year ago.

Starting salaries range from $18,000 to $30,000, annually, Goecker said, with the average just over $20,000. The 1988 graduates averaged $20,873 about 8.6 percent higher than 1987. Goecker is a member of a U. S. Department of Agriculture committee on manpower needs that forecast an annual shortage of 4,000 food and agricultural science graduates extending into the 1990s.

Marvin J. Cepica, associate dean for resident instruction at Texas Tech in Lubbock, said employers are concerned about the shortage of agriculture graduates and some have increased their support for agricultural colleges. "We have really increased our internship figures," Cepica said. Many result in a job after graduation, either with that company or with a related industry."

He said food technology seniors can command salaries ranging from $25,000 to $30,000 annually, with an average starting salary for all agricultural graduates "somewhere between $19,000 and $20,000." •••

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Advanced Software Takes the Guesswork Out of Farming

Picture yourself in the future where you have the capability of analyzing every crop management decision and its potential effect on the eventual yield and profit, before you make it. Your actions no longer are based on guessing, but on facts collected and categorized by the farm computer.

Before you even get up each morning, the computer has automatically dialed several local and national databases to obtain information on current commodity prices, feed costs, weather forecasts and insect and disease predictions. Sensors in nose rings, ear tags and implanted devices also have been scanned to assess the physical condition of the farm animals. Finally, the computer has analyzed data from the farm's weather station and soil moisture probes to determine the need for additional water or nutrients in each field.

These computers will also be reducing a farmer's physical and mental labor. For example, electronics may someday turn irrigation systems on and off based on input data, control weeding and harvesting robots, grind and mix feed as needed and milk dairy herds by remote control.

It's Happening Now

If this sounds like science fiction, consider how far computers already have advanced. Today there is artificial intelligence which involves the science of programming computers to mimic human behavior. In essence, this allows the computer to make recommendations or even take action on its own.

Such expert or knowledge-based systems already have been developed, according to Donald Holt, associate dean of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture and director of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. These computer programs already are in use by many of the nation's land grant universities.

One example is the PLANTS/ds program developed at the University of Illinois by plant pathologists Jim Sinclair and Barry Jacobsen. PLANT/ds makes it possible for anyone who can read English to identify soybean diseases and obtain a field diagnosis as accurately as an expert.

Frank Mitchener, Sumner, Mississippi, examines cotton seedlings and sensor wires which lead to a weather monitoring facility.

In an initial test, the expert system outperformed human specialists in making field diagnosis, registering 100 percent accuracy to their score of 96 percent.

To the soybean producer, such a program will ultimately mean the diagnosis and treatment of many plant diseases before they have time to spread.

Computerized Growth Simulation

The ability to combine personal decisions with artificial intelligence is at USDA/ARS, Mississippi State University and South Carolina's Clemson University. Together, a joint effort has resulted in GOSSYM, a computerized cotton production program.

As co-producer of the system and research leader for the USDA/ARS Crop Simulation Research Unit at Mississippi State University, Don Baker explains its unusual capabilities.

"This model is sufficiently detailed that on any given day it can tell the operator how tall the plants are, how many leaves or bolls it has, how deep the roots are and most importantly, what the eventual yield will be under various cultural practices and weather scenarios."

According to Baker, the computer currently relies on two sources of imput for its predictions. One is manual entry by the operator, telling the program when he planted, fertilized, irrigated or cultivated. The other is a weather station located in the cotton field.

"Every day or two the computer automatically dials the weather station to obtain actual data on such things as rainfall, sunlight and wind, and substitutes real information for the hypothesis," he says. "The system can then offer suggestions and yield predictions based on the information gathered up to that point and weather projections for the remainder of the season."

Because the eventual yield will depend on future, unknown weather, a choice of three weather scenarios is offered for comparison.

"It allows the farmer to play 'what if' games," Baker adds, stressing the program's primary function is to sharpen the producer's thinking.

In the end the choices the farmer makes can mean the difference between a higher yield, or in extreme cases, no crop at all if his treatment is delayed too long.

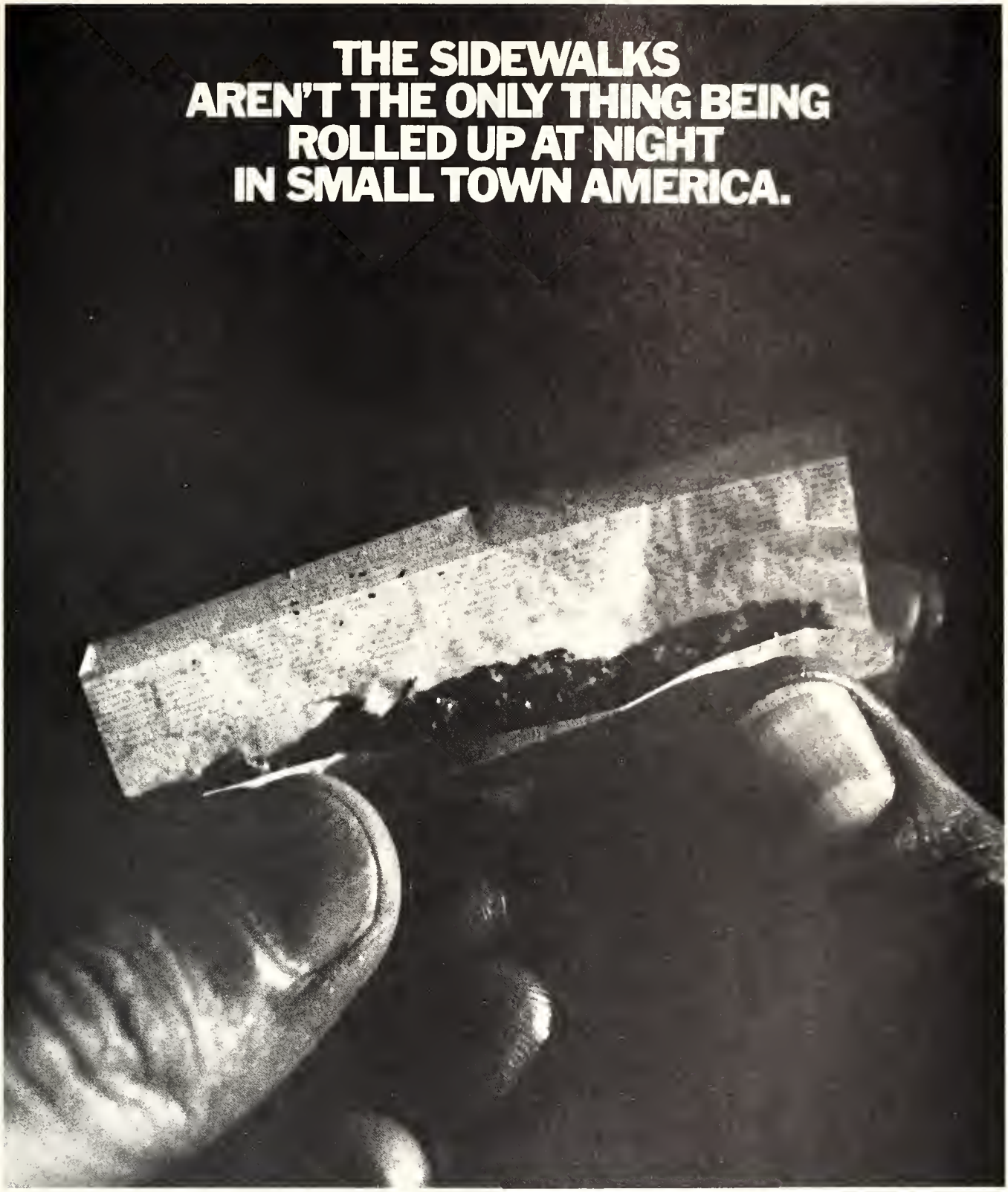
Similar Programs Planned

Expert systems already have advanced enough to prove their financial worth and are quickly being moved into the farming community.

Lambert explains that all programs being developed at the university level eventually will be available to producers with the equipment to use them. At present, this includes the weather station with sensors and a telephone modem, valued at approximately $3,400, and a compatible computer with printer, monitor and modem for around $5,000. •••

Reprinted with permission from Case IH *Farm Forum* magazine.

THE SIDEWALKS AREN'T THE ONLY THING BEING ROLLED UP AT NIGHT IN SMALL TOWN AMERICA.



Believe it or not, for a lot of you in small towns, marijuana is a very familiar sight. So is crack and cocaine.

Today, 28% Of Small Town Kids Are Into Big Town Drugs

It's true. Drugs are as big a problem here as they are in larger cities. Today some 28 percent of small town kids are experimenting regularly with marijuana, crack and cocaine. Some are even dealing the stuff.

Research has shown that using drugs can result in memory loss, infertility, lung damage, even heart failure. So, talk to your friends and get them to talk to you. Find out what they know and don't know about drugs. And then, set them straight. Because the worst mistake you can make is leaving them in the dark.

Partnership For A Drug-Free America

The Quest for Cash

Raising money for FFA chapters is important...and lots of fun

By Andrew Markwart

Cash. Bucks. Dough. Greenbacks. Moolah. No matter what term you use, the chapter treasury is going to need it.

Money.

Every FFA chapter needs money, usually thousands of dollars, to accomplish its goals each year—goals such as putting on a quality chapter banquet which requires buying plaques, trophies, pins and certificates for award winners.

Most chapters use money from their chapter treasury to send members to state and national convention, contests, leadership camps and even the Washington Conference Program. Promotions such as "FFA Week" also take a bite out of the checkbook. The list of where the money goes is endless; where it comes from is another story.

FFA members make money the old-fashioned way—they sell stuff.

FFA members make money the old-fashioned way—they sell stuff. Citrus, sausage, plants, apples, seeds, turkeys, cheese, candy, raffle tickets and much more has been sold by a huge sales force of FFA members for years.

Besides raising funds for the chapter, these money-making projects offer a lot of other benefits. First-year members get involved quickly in the fall, when most of the fund-raising takes place. Often, they earn their FFA jackets by selling or raising a certain amount of money. It's a great motivation tool for the new members and a chance for them to make their mark.

It's also the first real test of responsibility as they transfer hundreds of dollars from their customers to the cash box. Along the way, they learn basic accounting skills. The process builds trust and credibility with their advisors. It instills confidence and a sense of pride in the member.

Great Public Relations

Fund raising is one of the few chapter activities that triggers a community-wide, door-to-door campaign. It lets the community know the local FFA chapter is a vibrant student organization. Every time a fresh, young face knocks on a door and talks to a neighbor, it enhances the image of the chapter. It's genuine, invaluable public relations.

Such an activity should not go unnoticed. Public relations should be part of the fund-raising plan from the very beginning. A chapter member should be assigned the responsibility of spreading the word about the activity. They should contact the local newspaper and radio station with the facts about the fund-raising project. Announce it in school and to local businesses to let people know what's happening.

As a good follow-up, publicize the results: total amount raised, top salespeople and, most importantly, a "thank you" to the community for their support.

FFA Alumni members can be a valuable resource in planning and carrying out a fund-raising project. They're not just good customers, they can offer good advice along with a helping hand to do the heavy work. They just need to be asked.

Learning to Do...

Knocking on doors could lead to more than a trophy for top salesperson—it could lead to a career. Many of the basic selling skills can be learned right on a neighbor's doorstep. Opportunity awaits; today, sales and marketing offers more jobs than any other area of the agricultural industry (see "Good News for Ag Graduates," page 42.)

Recognizing the promise in the area of agricultural sales, the FFA has developed a new Agricultural Sales contest (see sidebar). The new contest will focus on many strengths members learn while working with fund-raising activities. Some states have held ag sales contests for a number of years.

As always, contests go hand in hand with what's being taught in many high school agriculture classrooms. Some schools even manage the fund-raising activity as a real world project; setting up a marketing plan, handling the accounting and other business details. It's hands-on experience that sheds light on the business principles they've learned in class.

FFA Launches Sales Contest

Most fund-raising activities revolve around the sales of a product. The better a member's sales skills are, the more they sell. Sales is also a growing career area and demand is high for people who understand agricultural products in the sales field.

In response to the promising career outlook in ag sales, a new Agricultural Sales contest has been developed and will be introduced at National FFA Convention this fall.

The new contest consists of three parts. First, a three-member sales team delivers a seven-minute sales presentation. After the presentation, they answer questions from the judges for three minutes.

The second part consists of an objective test where students are given a 50 question multiple choice test to determine their general sales knowledge.

The third part is a series of skill activities where contestants show judges what they have learned through hands-on projects. The activities will vary each year.

The Agricultural Sales Contest was tested last year in FFA chapters in Arizona, California, Nebraska, New York and Washington. It is not currently a national FFA contest. Each state will decide whether to conduct the contest. Many states already have some type of sales contest.

Watch for complete report on the contest in the next issue of the National FUTURE FARMER.

Fund Raising is BIG Business

When FFA members set out on their selling mission, they usually see only their short-term objective of making money for their chapter and possibly capturing a sales award. What they don't see is thousands of other FFA members knocking on doors across the country.

This huge blue and gold sales force sells millions of dollars of agricultural goods, creating a demand for products that otherwise would not exist. It is a natural combination; agriculture students selling, for the most part, agricultural products. It shows their investment in the industry and says to their customers, "Our futures are based in the products we sell."

For many companies, FFA fund raising is big business. Suppliers of citrus, sausage, candy, cheese and other products depend on orders sent in from FFA chapters as a major portion of their business. These companies also see the FFA chapters as a reputable distribution network for their products.

The industry that benefits most from FFA's sales efforts is citrus. This longtime king of the chapter money-makers has a proven history and a healthy standing compared to all other products. (See chart below.) Over the years, this relationship has resulted in juicy profits for chapters and suppliers alike.

According to Cathy Clay, information specialist, Florida Department of Citrus, 2.93 million cartons of citrus were sold through fund-raising efforts during the 1987-88 season. Each carton contains a four-fifths bushel of fruit.

As an example of FFA chapters' impact on one citrus company, Cindy Peden, sales coordinator for Seald-Sweet Growers, Inc., said that FFA members placed orders for 385,343 cartons of citrus last year. That's more than 7,700 *tons* of fruit. And Seald-Sweet is only one of many citrus suppliers to FFA chapters.

So when FFA members place orders for agricultural products, they are not only raising money for their chapters, they are also supporting the industry that holds their future careers.

The National FFA Organization does not endorse a particular fund-raising program.

Top Ten Tips for Successful Fund Raising

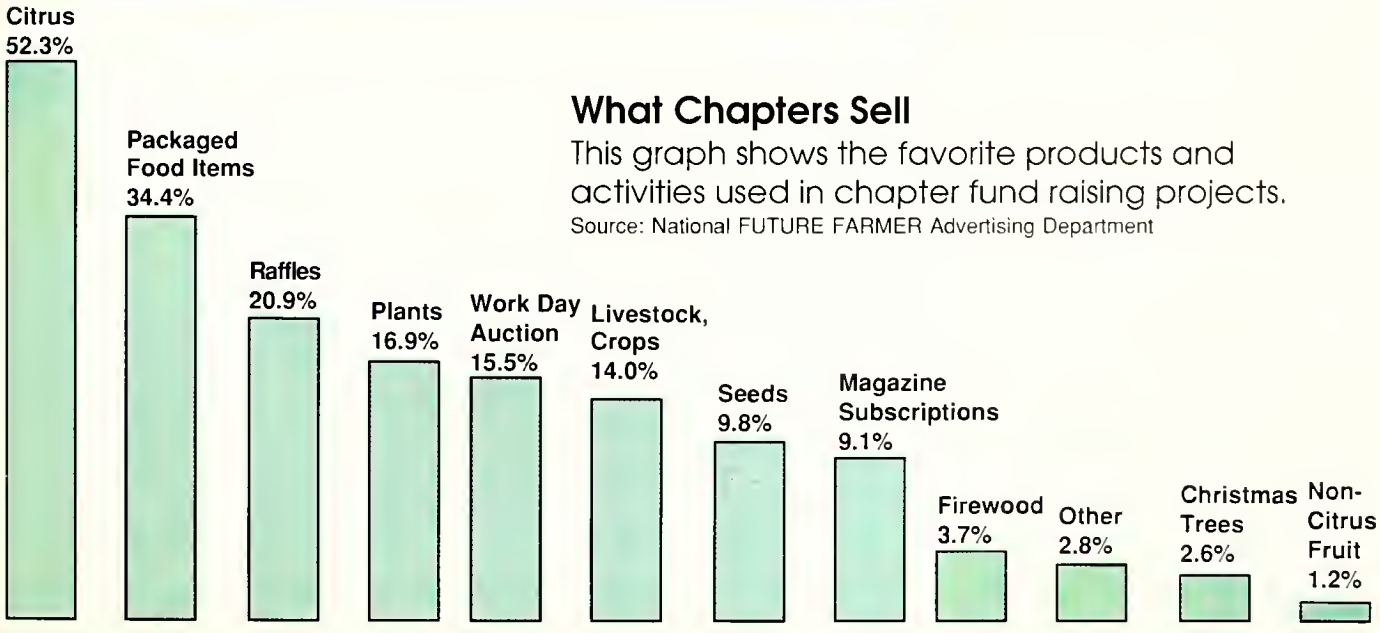
- **Know your product.** Be prepared to answer questions from your customers.
- **The earnings and savings committee** should be in charge of the project. This way, fund raising will be considered in your program of activities.
- **Always give people their money's worth.** If they're happy, you've got a customer next year.
- **Having a specific reason** for your money-making activity is helpful. For example: "Help our FFA Chapter send two members to the Washington Conference Program."
- **Set a dollar goal.** It motivates everyone involved.
- **Set a time limit.** If the activity drags on, interest will dwindle.
- **Use a computer** to keep sales records. It's a great management tool and will make the job easier for next year.
- **Check with your principal** on fund-raising rules. It is better to be safe than sorry.
- **Look sharp** - You are representing your chapter, and you might sell more.
- **Reward members** who sell the most product. Competition is always exciting.

There's More ➥
For new products, see page 33 for "Money-Making Ideas."

What Chapters Sell

This graph shows the favorite products and activities used in chapter fund raising projects.

Source: National FUTURE FARMER Advertising Department



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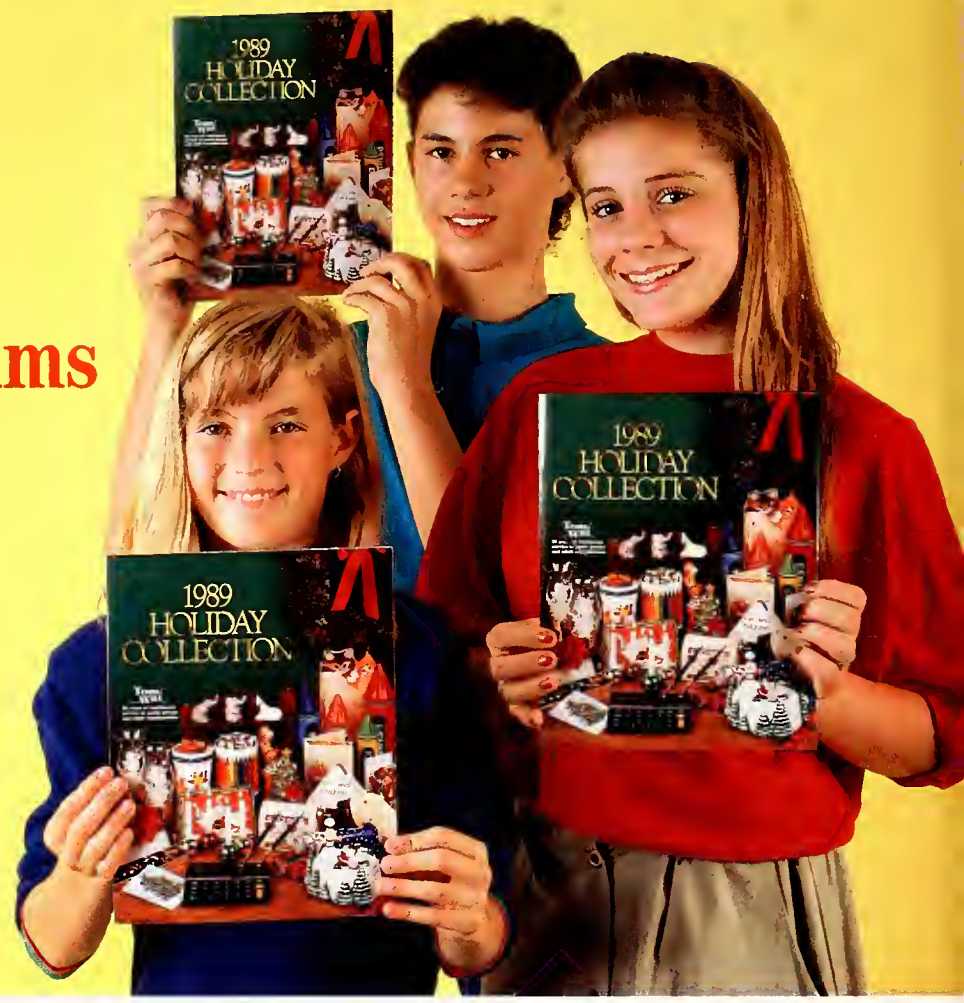

If your goal is to realize profits of $1,000, $1,500, $2,000 (or even more) before the end of the year, Tom-Wat has exactly what you need to accomplish it.

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FFA Chapter _____ Number of Members Participating _____

Name of School _____

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City/State/Zip _____

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City/State/Zip _____

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Money Making Ideas

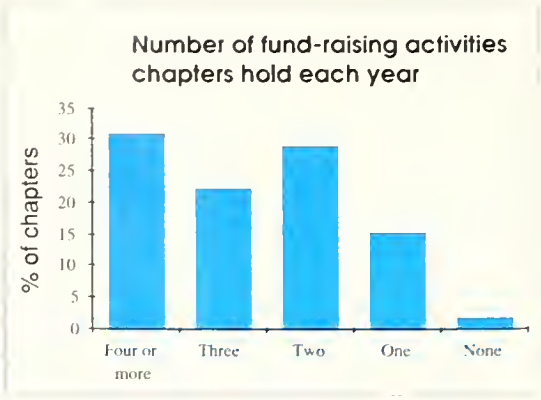
Are the good citizens of your community tired of seeing the same old product every year? Does the band sell the same thing your chapter sells? Looking for something new to add to your sales inventory? Here are some new ideas you may want to consider for this coming year.

• **Soynuts**...Chances are that nobody is selling soynuts in your neighborhood. These tasty, roasted nuggets are a relatively new product and a new demand for soybeans is good for the farmers growing them. One company producing soynuts is Super Soynuts, Inc. of Inwood, Iowa. FFA member Scott Lee's family owns and operates the company, which they started in 1987 to diversify their market for the soybeans they produce on their farm.

The roasted beans are sold in eight flavors, including carob, yogurt, butter toffee, cherry, orange, Cajun, cinnamon, onion and garlic, and a plain variety.

"When we started out, we did all of the seasoning, coating, packaging and shipping from home," explains Scott, 1989 Star Farmer of Iowa and state vice president. "During our second year, we started shipping the raw soybeans to the Chicago area to be roasted, seasoned and coated. The seasoners and confectioners then send the processed soynuts back to us for packaging and shipping. We also constructed a separate building on our farm to house the business. This building is now affectionately referred to as 'the nuthouse!'"

The Lees are also marketing a soynut butter product similar to peanut butter. They say that like the soynuts, it is low in fat and calories and contains no cholesterol. Those interested can write to Lee Seed Co., Inc., RR1, Inwood, IA 51240.



• **Boxtops**...You don't sell them (there isn't much of a demand for used boxtops), you collect them. For the past four years, Wix Filters has offered an FFA chapter fund-raising campaign by redeeming boxtops from their extensive line of filters. All a chapter has to do is ask people in their community to save the boxtops, collect them and ship them off to the Wix company. Last year, each boxtop was worth 20 cents.

The campaign runs in the spring so watch for announcements then. If you're interested in the meantime, write to: FFA Filter Fundraiser, Wix Corporation, P.O. Bos 1967, Gastonia, NC 28053-1967.

• **Be Creative**...Find a need, fill the need, make some money. The best money making idea for your chapter may be waiting right in your hometown. Keep your eyes and ears open for an opportunity to serve your community while making money for your FFA chapter.

Your FFA chapter is not only a large, eager sales force, it's also a healthy, strong work force. Take a look at group tasks like lawn care, snow removal or tree planting. Working together, your chapter could do a lot of good while it raises funds.

Did we miss you? If your chapter is involved in a more interesting, more exciting money-making project than what has been mentioned in this fund-raising section, let us know by sending your ideas to: Fund-raising Ideas, National FUTURE FARMER Magazine, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

There's More ➥

To see what's happening with fund-raising projects in FFA chapters right now, see the special "Fund Raisers in Action" series on the next four pages.

Good Profits, More Corn, Less Trash

Selling degradable plastic trash bags is one money-making project that helps accomplish three good deeds at once. FFA members can raise money for their chapter, help increase markets for American corn and help clean up the environment in the process.

The "Corn In The Bag" fund-raising program is sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association (NGCA) and ICI Americas Inc. The program is set-up like this: FFA members can sell trash bags made out of a special plastic containing cornstarch that, as early as six months, starts breaking down (degrading) in the soil.

The bags come in packets of ten without printing on them and are available in three sizes; tall kitchen trash (15 gallon, white) outdoor trash (30 gallon, white) and lawn and leaf (39 gallon, clear). The sponsors suggest that chapters make $1.00 profit on each packet of ten bags to keep competitive with conventional plastic bags.

The sponsors are also offering cash incentives and a trip to the Corn Classic (NCGA's Annual Meeting) in Phoenix, Arizona next February.

The NCGA estimates that 150-300 million bushel market for corn could be created through the use of degradable plastics. Plastic products, such as milk jugs and other containers, are in the experimentation stages to be made degradable. The bags being offered through this program contain 6 percent cornstarch.

Chapters interested in this project may request a full kit of materials by writing to: Corn in The Bag, 1000 Executive Parkway, Suite 105, St. Louis, MO 63141. All orders for this program must be postmarked no later than January 15, 1990.

The NCGA is a commodity group supported by thousands of corn growers across the country. ICI Americas Inc. is a manufacturer of agrichemicals.

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Fund Raisers In Action

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Our biggest fund-raiser is our annual fruit sale. We try to sell Texas grown fruit when it is available and we don't try to make all of our profit on one box. In other words we offer the fruit at a good price for our patrons and rely on volume for the dollars we need. As an incentive program we allow the chapter members who sell fruit to order items from the official FFA catalog at the chapter's expense. The more a member sells, the more he/she is allowed to order. We sell lots of fruit and get some pretty good advertising for the FFA to boot.

In addition we also earn money from our small herd of commercial cattle. We keep six to seven head of Brahma cross females on eighteen acres of school property behind our local elementary school. Our number one management principle is to keep the operating cost of the herd to a bare minimum for healthy animals. With the good cattle prices we have had lately, we have been able to clear almost as much as the fruit sale while actually putting forth relatively little effort. In fact every thing we do with cattle can also be used in the instruction of our classes.

Each year at our country fair we share a soda water concession with the other two chapters and the 4-H clubs in our county. We work extremely hard for one day during the fair, as do each of the participating groups, and then we are through. This activity takes a little bit of preliminary planning but it is generally an effective one day undertaking that produces good returns.

If I had to tie it all together, I would have to say that the one thing that all of our successful fund-raisers have in common is that they all occur annually (and tend to return more next year if we do a good job this year.) All our money makers are learning experiences for our

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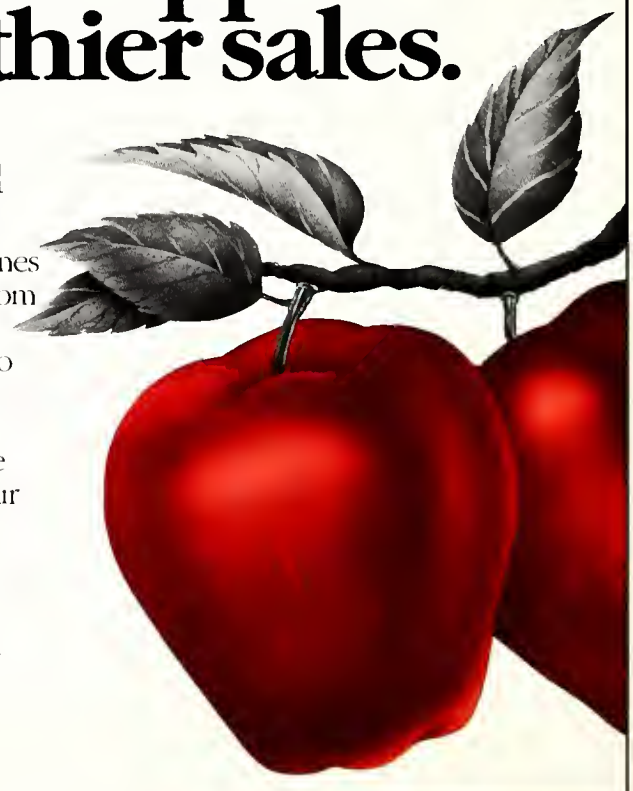

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members and are highly visible and send a message to our patrons that we want to work for the dollars that it takes to send our members to FFA activities throughout the year. (J. P. Hancock, Advisor)

Inwood, Iowa

Raking In the Money

Two good ideas came from the chapter. One you may be able to find in your community too. The FFA rakes a large local city park - it covers about four city blocks. Because it's so large, it takes 30 or 40 members all working together to get the job done. All they have to do is rake the leaves into large piles for the city to haul away.

The chapter earns $400 for the 2 - 3 hours work. Then the FFA has a cookout and a spring FFA meeting.

The other idea is to organize a cooperative with other chapters in the immediate area for fruit sales. They have been doing this for seven years and have found it has made a difference of $700 for their school alone.

One advisor each year coordinates. They already have a contract designed which they use to get local stores or food suppliers to bid on furnishing oranges, grapefruit and apples for the six chapters to sell.

Advisor Gary DeVries offered to share a copy of this contract with other advisors. Those who wish a copy should send a stamped, self- addressed envelope to The Citrus Idea, FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Fowler, Colorado

Bronco Basketball

For the past three years we have averaged at least $100 a member in support from the community during our annual "labor" sale. We have the sale at the beginning of spring because usually this is the time when the agricultural community needs helpers.

To attract buyers we have some kind of entertainment. The entertainment for the last four years has been the Denver Broncos who played a basketball game against some of the FFA Alumni of our chapter. As a small incentive and thanks we give tickets to the last year's buyers.

This year all 34 members in our chapter were auctioned off.

Perrydale, Oregon

Sit Down On the Job

Denton Davison was one of the members who built 100 of these sturdy and portable stools in shop. They sell them for just $5 to folks in the community. Last year they made a wooden game board for Aggravation and sold that for $5 as well. Advisor Kirk Hutchinson offered to share the plans for the stool. Advisors who send a self addressed stamped envelope to: The $5 Idea, FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309, will get a set.

Union, Missouri

Print Your Own

This large active chapter has a variety of fund-raisers too. One addition to their citrus sales operation is to add Missouri grown pecans to their list of merchandise. They market cracked pecans in 5-pound bags. Student incentives to sell include 50 cents per case of citrus sold toward FFA clothing items from the FFA catalog.

The chapter also publishes its own fund-raiser calendar. They go to a local printer to manufacture calendars which have about 20 ads the chapter has sold for $30 each. One of these calendars goes to every new freshman.

Advisor Elbert also shared that the FFA owns a soda machine which is just for use by members in the ag department. But since it features Pepsi in bottles, it is a big money maker.

The FFA also earns money from the resale of metal and wood used in the shop, and for FFA supplies which members want to buy.

Genoa, Ohio

This Little Piggy Went to Market

The FFA processed and packaged 24 hogs into sausage. A total of 1,895 pounds of bulk and link sausage was produced on "sausage day." A total of 301 sides of ribs were also sold.

Parents, alumni members, school administrators, FFA advisors, and all FFA members helped make this year's sausage sale a success.

The annual sale is FFA's largest money making project with profits used for the annual banquet, contest entrance fees, and shop and classroom supples. Goal of next year's sausage day will be to raise a net profit of $4,000. (Robin Bowyer, Reporter)

Oldham County, Kentucky

Five Big Ones

Our chapter FFA dues are $6.00 (national, state and local). We raise over $12,000 per year and don't ask for contributions. The chapter has used the following successful fund-raising projects:

1. We grow two acres (5,000 pounds) of Burley tobacco; 2. We operate 1,800 square feet of greenhouse for bedding plants; 3. We have a chapter soft drink machine; 4. We are currently building lawn/outdoor furniture for sale to the public; and 5. We do landscape work for individuals and institutions.

We try to have fund-raisers that are educational and agricultural in nature. (Boyd C. Johnson, Advisor)

Forest Grove, Oregon

Run For the Money

This chapter has found setting up for marathon runs a good way to earn money for the chapter.

They do set up work like putting up tents, chairs, stands, and helping with crowd control. They have worked for a 25K Portland run and an 8K spring run. Usually they can earn about $1,000 in four days.

In addition they have a huge plant sale which has become the largest non-athletic event at the school Last year, there were 1,000 customers in the first hour and the FFA earned nearly $9,000. The sale is only run from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the school greenhouse on a school day just before vacation.

(Continued on Page 36)

Fund Raisers In Action

Springdale, Arkansas

Summer Fund-Raiser Sign

Instead of selling candy and sausage in the fall and winter, the chapter is collecting funds in the summer. Our goal is to visit every business in Springdale and for $3.00 we will add the firm's name in blue on a large yellow banner. This should spread our FFA support to the entire community - not just a few firms.

The banner will be displayed at the rodeo; in the 4th of July parade; at all FFA functions where the public would see it; and whenever any sponsoring business would like to use it for a special occasion.

Lake Region Union, Orleans, Vermont

Dunkin' Dough

Our chapter has less than 30 members and we raise over $7,000 a year to carry out our chapter activities. Our general philosophy is to supply a product or a service at a reasonable price. Although not a unique fund-raiser, one success is our dunking booth at the county fair. The members enjoy this activity; it is good public relations for us; and raises $1,000. We live in a rural area and a large percentage of the people attending knows at least one of the members to "dunk."

Other fund-raisers are cider sales, citrus sales, donkey basketball, care of town cemeteries and projects in our school woodlot. Members are hired to work in the woodlot. Firewood, cedar posts and logs, and pulp are sold. (Earle Randall, Advisor)

The Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

Big City Money

The chapter held their fourth annual bedding plant sale in the school greenhouse and raised $10,000!

Students began preparing for the sale in January by scheduling the planting dates of seeds so the material would be ready on time. Throughout the spring students sowed seeds, transplanted, watered, fertilized and provided general care for the plants. Approximately 40,000 plants were grown including geraniums, petunias, impatients, marigolds, wax begonias, salvia, celosia, periwinkle, moss rose and other common annuals.

As the date for the sale grew closer, the students advertised by distributing flyers and hanging signs. With the cooperation of the ag-mechanics and art classes, signs were made to identify plants in the greenhouse. On the day of the sale, some students took part by assisting the customers in selecting their plants while other members collected the money. The bedding plant sale raised close to $10,000 and the proceeds were deposited in the FFA treasury. In addition, this sale served as a great public relations event for our chapter. (Ron Biondo, Reporter)

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Limestone, Alabama

Its a Mystery Why the Sales Are So High

We have tried many fund-raisers, but the one we have had the most success with is citrus sales. We take orders for citrus fruit and apples the last of October and the first of November and deliver before Christmas holidays. The students are paid cash commissions based on the number of boxes they sell.

Also I set up what I call "mystery houses" where I place an envelope containing cash to be given to the student who visits that house to make a sale. I usually place five of these throughout our school district. This causes the students to not skip any houses during our sales drive. A lot of excitement is generated, to the extent that the students try to follow me or try to out guess me as to the location of the "mystery houses."

We are a small rural school, but our goal each year is 1,000 crates of fruit. The closest we have come is 935 crates. Our profits range from about $2,300 to $3,500 depending on the total sales for the year. (Darwin Siniard, Advisor)

Yamhill-Carlton, Oregon

Money To Burn

Major fund-raising activity for the chapter is selling fire wood. They are in a major area of logging operation, so the project is a natural. Many of the members are already used to working for logging firms and are handy with chain saws.

The chapter owns saws and equipment for use in training and then they use them for their fire wood cutting projects. In 1989 they bought three new saws.

The chapter is supported by three logging companies who allow the FFA to come onto land after the firm has done their cutting. The chapter then can cut and haul out as much hardwood to sell as fire wood as they can. One firm actually brings logs to the school's back parking lot and the members don't even have to haul it out of the woods.

FFA sells wood for $80 a cord, dumped. They made about $7,000 last year on the project. They also made sure the logging firms had plenty of fire wood cut and stacked.

Bokchito, Oklahoma

Pies...Going, Going, Gone

In Bokchito, the FFA chapter sold 15 pies and made $1,540 at the annual bar-b-que and pie auction in cooperation with the Bokchito FFA Alumni. Colonel Chad Morris, a Greenhand member of FFA, served as auctioneer.

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A Change of Heart

Michigan's FFA Alumni helps high school administrators see the power of FFA with a trip to Kansas City

Photo by Andrew Markwart

After visiting national FFA convention, assistant superintendent Larry Lindquist, center, is more committed than ever to helping make the Montague FFA strong. Pictured left to right are: Keith Griffin, advisor; Renata Stevens, Ryan Anglium, Lindquist, Eric Wagen, Corey Grow, Brian Lohman, and Kellie Courtland.

Like a bad Rodney Dangerfield joke, some FFA chapters "don't get no respect." The members know what a good thing they have. So does the advisor. But some important people, such as principals, superintendents, counselors and board of education members, often don't understand what FFA has to offer. If these people don't support their school's FFA chapter and agriculture program, it could have disastrous affects.

Members of the Michigan FFA Alumni Association decided to help boost support for FFA chapters in their state by inviting 10 high school administrators to the 61st National FFA Convention last November in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Alumni worked with local FFA chapters, the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at Michigan State University to get their special guests to convention. The results were just what the Alumni had hoped.

"It was, without a doubt, the best thing which has happened to me in a long, long time," said Larry Lindquist, assistant superintendent, Montague Area Public Schools. "My faith in American youth was certainly renewed along with my commitment to the necessity of a better agricultural program in Montague. Now, more than ever, I am determined to find a way to strengthen the agricultural experience locally."

It was the first time for a state-wide effort to get such a large group to national convention. Previously, it was up to local chapters to take the initiative.

Not all of the administrators were excited to attend the convention. Ray Davis, principal at Marshall, Michigan, admitted that he had to be forced to attend the convention, but now says the trip was "one of the greatest experiences of my life."

Vic Verchereau, former Michigan FFA president and Dr. Jake Wamoff, chair of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, Michigan State University, guided administrators during their visit to Kansas City. Their stops included the National FFA Alumni banquet and auction, the National Floriculture Contest, the National Agricultural Career Show and several convention sessions. One administrator said, "Students get a better education out here (in Kansas City) than they do spending a week back home in the classroom."

Grant Schools superintendent Cleland Methner agreed. "The national convention is a confidence builder. All students should have this type of experience." And one administrator realized that "Schools should not focus on sending the lower groups of students to 'ag' classes. FFA and agricultural education should have an opportunity to enlist the school's finest students and ag classes should not be used simply as a dumping ground."

The ten administrators and Alumni representatives met in January to develop a plan to share what they experienced at the convention with other educators and to expand the program to include more administrators this year.

Future plans include inviting counselors, others, board members and administrators to the state or national conventions; sending other high school student leaders to the state convention and encouraging other teachers or administrators to be chaperones for the state or national convention delegations.

Now the challenge is for other state FFA Alumni Associations to plan administrator trips to Kansas City. It may be the most important activity the Alumni can do to support the FFA in their state. •••

This article is based on a paper by Dr. Jack Elliot and Dr. Harry Gardner, Michigan State University.

New Frontiers

(Continued from Page 13)

Advanced Genetic Sciences, Inc. of Oakland, California, bioengineered Frostban bacteria which can inhibit ice formation on crops. Field tests have been conducted on strawberries, almonds, tree fruits, and other high value crops. Frostban registration is expected in 1990.

Monsanto Corp. of St. Louis, Missouri are aggressively developing tomatoes, tobacco, soybeans and corn which will stand up to their popular Roundup herbicide; tomatoes and corn which will contain a Bt gene to resist tobacco hornworm and budworm; and tomatoes for resistance to tobacco mosaic virus.

The herbicide tolerant genes developed by Monsanto will be licensed to seed companies with "major market shares", said company spokesperson Lisa Drake.

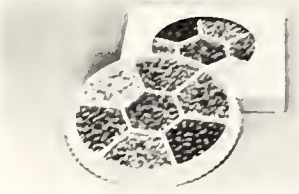
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa is working with several major agrichemical companies, including American Cyanamid, DuPont and Monsanto developing herbicide and insect tolerant crops. The company says improved corn yields and disease resistance will come from their own and joint venture research into new biotechnology techniques.

These are some of the new and coming products in the biotech 'product pipeline.' Many, many more companies are developing biotechnology products. It is safe to assume that all major chemical and seed companies not mentioned in this article also have biotech product development programs underway, or they are watching specific research developments which they may adopt or purchase.

Several representatives of the biotech companies said the 1990's may be a decade of 'bioconversion.' Executives from these companies feel manufacturers, farmers, and legislators will all swing toward the "natural" way of doing things, which they feel will make biotech products more attractive.

Boldly going where no one has gone before–there will be more new biotech products coming! Who knows, maybe you'll soon be working on the team to develop, manufacture and market such a product–and shaping the future of American agriculture. •••

SUPER SOYNUTS



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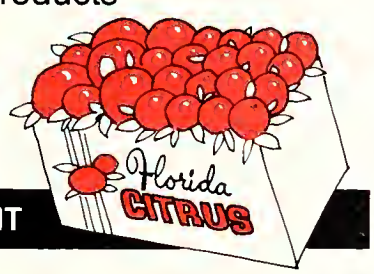

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Chapter Scoop

Devon Jones, of the **Kerman**, California, FFA is the first recipient of the Overgaard Scholarship - $8,000 over four years. It is a scholarship given by Henry and Allene Overgaard to the high school to be used for agricultural scholarships. They originally owned the land where the school is now.

Montrose, Colorado, is looking forward to their annual pack trip in July.

The **Haralson County**, Georgia, FFA Chapter held a "chitterling" supper for all chapter members, Alumni members, and parents in conjunction with the Greenhand Ceremony.

Members of the **DeWitt Central**, Iowa, FFA served as ring stewards at the AKC dog show in March. Duties included handing out ribbons and calling classes to the ring.

Bristol, Massachusetts, FFA built a float for the 350th anniversary celebration in their neighboring town. Float theme was "Agriculture: Past, Present and Future."

Maintaining the land lab of the Drewry Mason Middle Chapter in **Ridgeway**, Virginia, is keeping members busy this summer with a pumpkin patch, Christmas tree plot and an apple orchard to watch over.

Cisne, Illinois, members cleared weeds and brush at an intersection in Wayne County to help prevent traffic accidents.

Greenville, New York, had a donkey basketball game and attracted a large crowd to help raise funds for the FFA.

The **Bi**[illegible]**on**, Texas, Greenhand Chapter had their [illegible]nual dance. Hired a dj, made a bar-b-q, and said goodbye to outgoing Greenhand [illegible]fficers.

Mark Gibbons gave the test plot committee report at the **Greenville**, Ohio, Chapter meeting. They have oats, corn and beans on test.

Calhan, Colorado, FFA constructed signs welcoming travellers to their town. The student council bought the materials for the project.

Miller City, Ohio, FFA Chapter recently captured the County FFA Basketball Tournament.

Roswell, New Mexico, set a new school record at their recent FFA blood drive with 94 units collected.

A team of 14 walkers from the **Toledo** Animal Care FFA Chapter in Ohio walked a total of 350 kilometers and raised $502 for March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon. John Burchell raised $128.75.

FFA members in **Midview**, Ohio, held a petting zoo for the children in the home economics department's nursery school.

Brookland, Arizona, members passed out fliers for the town council according to Jason Boling, reporter.

Members of **McKean**, Delaware, FFA joined together to buy a classring for one of their members who was in a comma following an auto accident several months earlier.

A group of boosters for the **Ceres**, California, FFA hosted the first dinner dance in May. They charged $10 per person for a dance with band and catered meal. Proceeds to support FFA and the ag department.

Magoffin County, Kentucky, FFA cleaned up the field in front of the middle school and improved the view and appearance for them. The chapter received a donation from the county school board of $300 for their hard work and help.

Food for America extra activities conducted by **Eagle Point**, Oregon, was to have the children plant sunflower and pumpkin seeds.

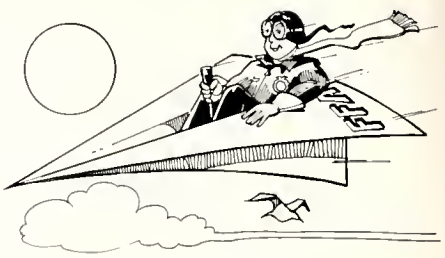
Rhode Island FFA has had three sets of sibling state presidents: Kevin Skaling in '67-68 and brother Paul in '71-72; Dana Miller in '78-79 and sister Narda the next year; Donna Hammond in '82-83 followed by sister Debra.

John Livingston was winner of the bale toss in the ag olympics run by **Waterford**, Ohio, FFA with a distance of 52 feet.

In **Azle**, Texas, the chapter president is Jennifer Morgan. The Alumni affiliate there is her Dad, Jerry Morgan.

On the way home from state convention, **Prague**, Oklahoma, Chapter had a bus breakdown for several hours. So to pass the time, they played baseball with a stuffed sock for a bat and a hacky sack for a ball.

The **Treutlen**, Georgia, FFA members and guests enjoyed country comedian, Bobby McLamb, as he gave a humorous and inspirational speech at the banquet.



Berthold, North Dakota, FFA member Darrin Schweitzer won the 2nd Annual Great Paper Airplane Flight Contest, a contest held annually to promote member participation at meetings.

Did you apply or run for office this year? And why not? Give it some thought for next year, and start getting ready now.

Gonzales, Texas, members had fun and learned how to vaccinate all kinds of animals during the rabies clinic they operated for the community.

The **Arickaree**, Colorado, FFA amended its constitution to allow for Alumni membership.

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Lesson Four: Philosophy. Whether you're operating a tank or assisting in an operating room, you'll be part of making America a stronger nation.

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The New Ag Professionals:
Good News for Ag Graduates

By Dr. David Meisinger

I grew up on a big farm in northern Illinois where we farmed over one thousand acres in the 60's, which was very sizable for the times. We raised all species of livestock. I carried several projects in 4-H and FFA. I have always considered this background an important part of my education. Throughout my career, I have benefited from this first-hand knowledge and understanding of the industry and the people with whom I work.

What strikes me now is that I had little or no appreciation for the rest of agriculture outside the small area in which I was involved. While it seems that agriculture truly revolves around farming, the fact is that only one out of eight jobs in agriculture involves actual production of food or fiber. That is to say, seven out of eight agricultural jobs are in agricultural supply or support industries. Even before I chose a career, I always knew that I was going to college. I cannot understand anyone thinking that he or she does not need a college education. Furthermore, I cannot understand families willing to cut short the potential of their kids by not encouraging college or at least technical school. My advice is not to slam doors unnecessarily; enough of them will close by themselves. Without a college education, your job opportunities are limited to blue collar or laborer positions. This is a fact even for production agriculture. More and more, the progressive businessmen running our nation's farms are degree holders.

There is every reason for you to include college in your plans for selfish reasons, but there is another good reason. A 1986 USDA report entitled *Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in the Food and Agricultural Sciences* is quoted as saying: "The most crucial variable in the world food equation of the future may be food and agricultural, scientific and professional expertise."

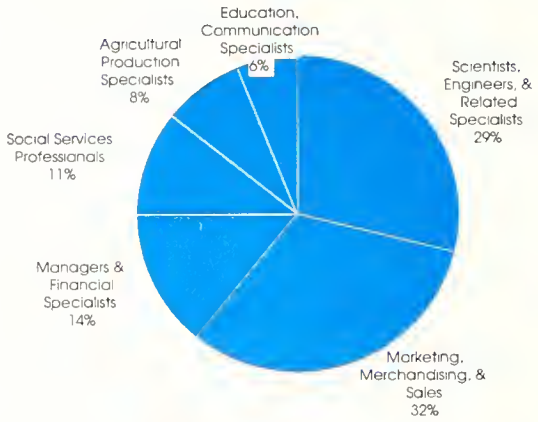
Purdue University personnel state there are three companies looking for people to hire for each graduate. This means that two out of every three companies leave empty-handed, and the opportunities for the student to choose are even greater.

Using information taken from the USDA report quoted earlier, let's look at some of the employment opportunities in six specific major occupational areas.

Most Promising Careers

In the first category—scientists, engineers and related specialists—almost 14,000 openings are projected annually in the United States through 1990. Slightly more than 11,600 qualified college graduates are anticipated per year, leaving a projected annual shortage of more than 2,000 graduates for research, engineering, and technical positions.

An estimated 6,900 new college-educated managers and financial specialists having food and agricultural expertise will be required annually through 1990. Nearly 5,800 qualified college graduates are expected to be available each year.


Education, Communication Specialists 6%
Agricultural Production Specialists 8%
Scientists, Engineers, & Related Specialists 29%
Social Services Professionals 11%
Managers & Financial Specialists 14%
Marketing, Merchandising, & Sales 32%

Distribution of Employment Opportunities for College Graduates
Source: USDA, 1986

Almost 1,000 new openings for food and agricultural financial specialists and economists are projected during each of the next five years.

In 1984, U.S. consumers spent $332 billion for food produced by farmers. Of this total, some $242 billion were expended for processing, marketing, and other functions in the farmer-to-consumer food system. Also, farm supply and service industries added an estimated $178 billion to the U.S. gross national product and employed some 4.2 million people.

Economic activity of this magnitude requires many college-educated professionals. Projections indicate that through 1990 there will be more than 15,000 annual openings in sales, merchandising, and marketing for new graduates having food and agricultural expertise.

Through 1990, the projected number of annual U.S. openings for food and agricultural educators, information specialists, and communication professionals is 3,053. In contrast, more than 4,600 qualified college graduates are expected to be available each year to compete for these positions.

Expanding use of information systems and computer-assisted instruction is expected to provide continuing new employment opportunities. Also, some growth in this area of professional opportunities for food and agricultural public relations specialists and advertising representatives is anticipated.

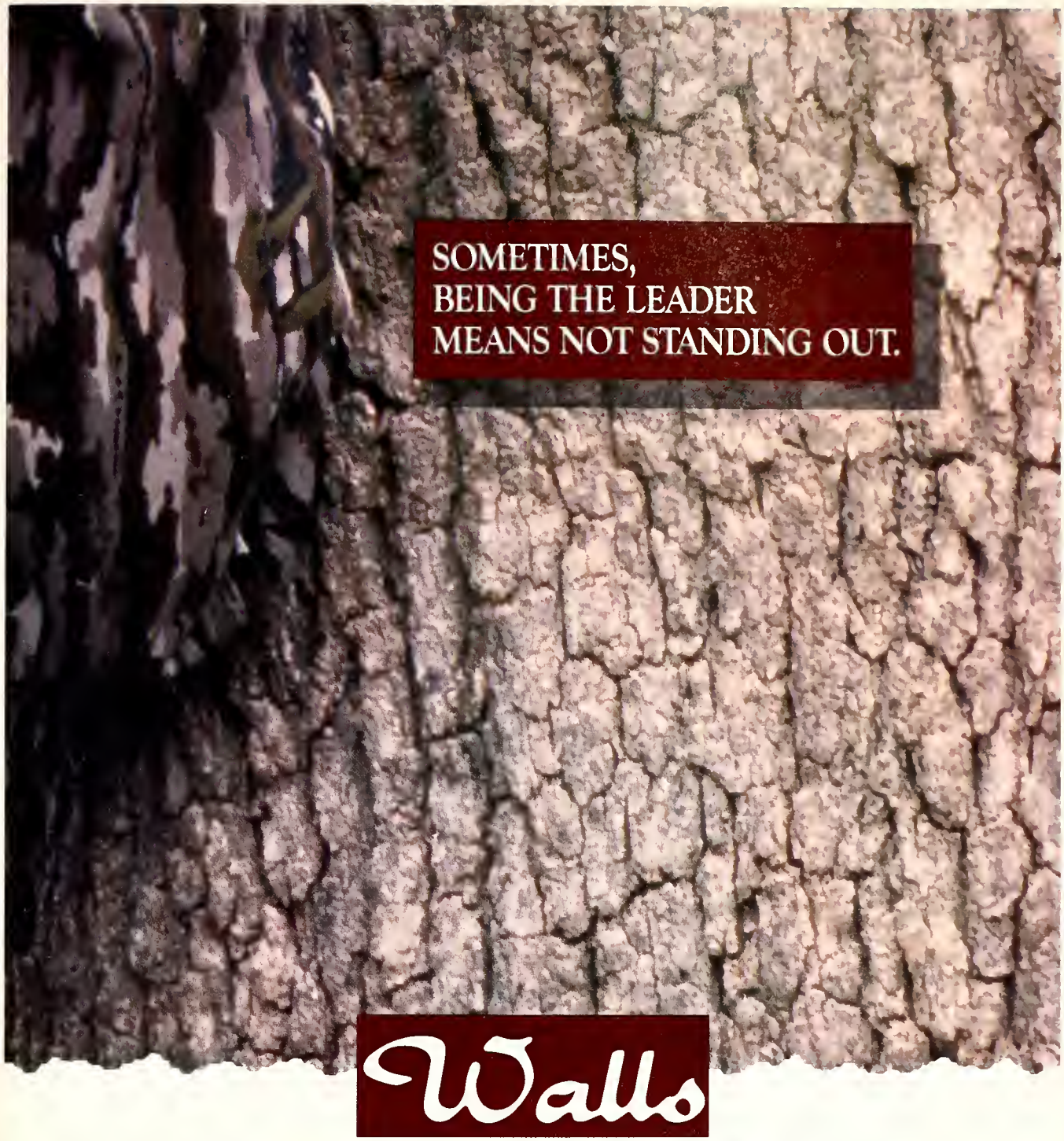
Sound opportunities will exist for personnel and labor relations specialists, recreation workers, naturalists, regional planners, and community development specialists, as well as nutritionists and dietetic technicians. Annually, more than 4,300 qualified college graduates are expected to be available to accept professional social services positions.

Fewer new farming and ranching opportunities are projected for college graduates through the late 1980's. Principal factors contributing to the decline in the number of agricultural producers include increased costs of production, unstable market for agricultural commodities, and increased producer efficiencies stemming from technological advancements.

Nearly 3,800 food and agricultural production openings will be available for college degree recipients each year. In contrast, more than 4,200 qualified college graduates are projected annually through 1990.

All together, 48,000 jobs are predicted by the USDA to be available to graduates each year in the field of agriculture. •••

This article is condensed from a speech delivered by Dr. Meisinger at the Indiana Pork Producers' 4-H/FFA Luncheon during the Indiana Pork Congress, January 21, 1989.



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Chris Flanders checks one of 10,000 bobwhite quail he sold in 1988.

Quality Quail

Chris Flanders raises quail for hunting preserves in Georgia

By Andrew Markwart

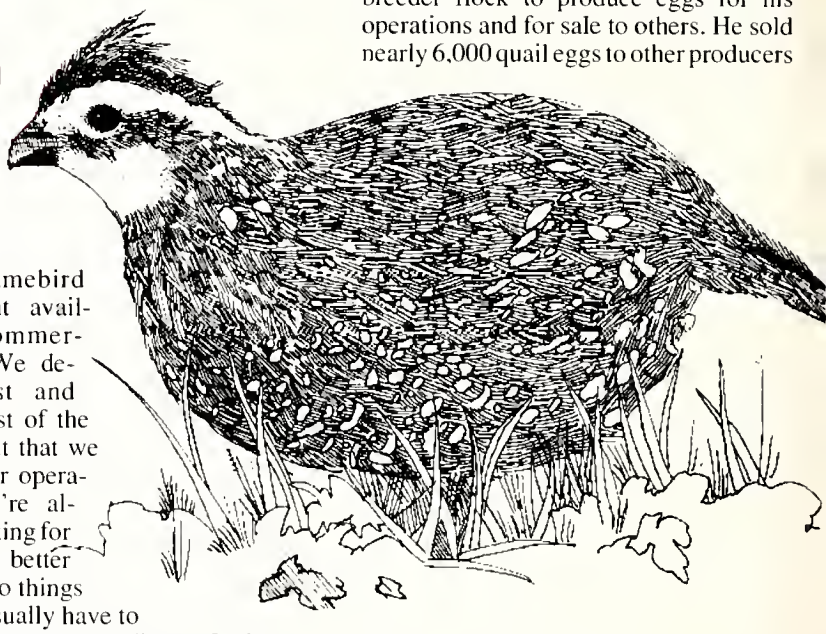
For an avid hunter, the curse of living in a big city is the lack of open spaces. For sportsmen from Atlanta, the grassy fields and pine forests in the rural south central Georgia are a welcome retreat from the rat-race of metropolitan living. They come to hunt quail, and thanks to FFA member Chris Flanders, they go home satisfied.

Flanders, of Kite, Georgia, raises bobwhite quail and sells them to commercial shooting preserves. These preserves restock birds and other game so the hunting is consistently good. Last year Chris raised and sold 10,000 quail to these preserves. He was named the 1988 southern region Specialty Animal Production Proficiency winner for his unusual quail project.

Flanders says that on a typical day, a shooting preserve releases 200 quail. A hunter is limited to bagging 12 birds per day. The birds are hunted twice during the day. Whatever birds are left by evening are trapped and held until the next day's release.

For the past four years, Chris has been supplying the preserves with the birds raised through his supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) produced on his Emanuel Quail Farm.

Raising gamebirds has its challenges. According to Flanders, since producing gamebirds is not a big industry there is little gamebird equipment available commercially. "We design, test and build most of the equipment that we use in our operation. We're always looking for new and better ways to do things and we usually have to find them on our own," says Chris.



Chris used many of the skills he learned from instructors Steve Meeks and Randall Turner in his agriculture classes at Swainsboro High School in designing and constructing the specialized equipment for the quail operation. He built and wired shelters for the birds and long flight pens so the quail could exercise, get used to normal weather conditions and learn to fly.

Flanders says the venture has paid off for him. "One of the best investments I ever made was to go into producing flight-conditioned quail for shooting preserves. There is a good, strong market and few producers to fill it. With commercial hunting in south Georgia expanding steadily, I expect the market to become stronger and remain stable in the years to come," said Flanders.

He has advertised his birds through the Georgia Agriculture Department's consumer market bulletin which has generated most of his business.

Besides the flight-trained bobwhite quail, Flanders also raises ringneck pheasants for shooting preserves, pharaoh quail that are sold for eating and maintains a breeder flock to produce eggs for his operations and for sale to others. He sold nearly 6,000 quail eggs to other producers last year alone.

He puts most of his profits back into his business. The rest goes to help finance his education at Swainsboro Vocational Technical School where he is studying digital electronics.

Flanders says he enjoys hunting deer, squirrel and rabbit, but admits he doesn't care much for bird hunting. "I see too many birds already," chuckles Chris. •••

The Speciality Animal Production proficiency award is sponsored by Country General Stores and Purina Mills, Incorporated, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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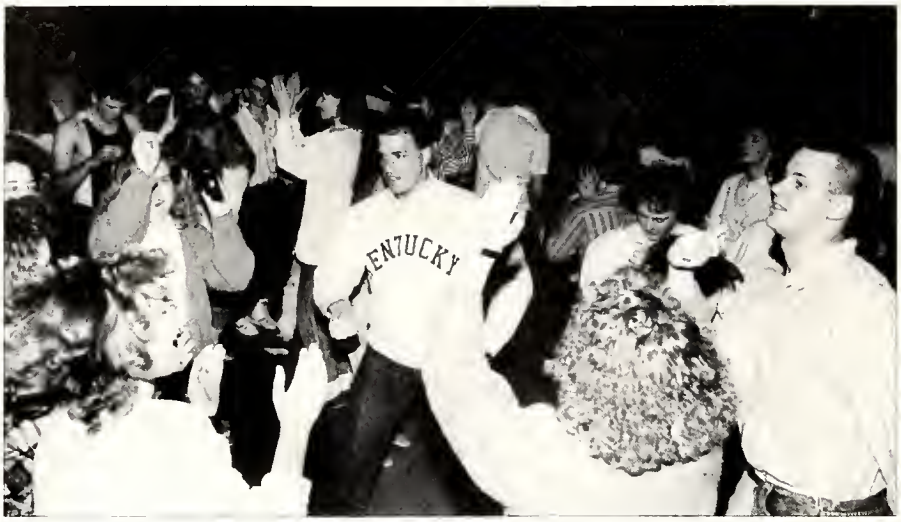

This is the season for all six national FFA officers to travel into states for conventions and leadership camps. Jeff Johnson, national secretary from Florida (sporting a Kentucky sweatshirt he added to his collection) arrived at the South Dakota state convention in Brookings without luggage. Although his dress was very untypical for an officer at a convention he was ready for the kick-off dance!

Missouri

4-In-1 Judging Contest

The Keytesville, Brunswick, Northwestern and Salisbury, Missouri, chapters cooperated to put on one of the largest and most successful agricultural education contests in the state this year. On March 17, the four chapters hosted 27 schools from northern Missouri who brought 113 teams to the central site at Brunswick to participate in judging dairy cattle, entomology, livestock, soils, forestry, nursery and landscape, and meats.

The Keytesville chapter conducted the dairy and entomology contests. Brunswick operated the livestock and soil events. Northwestern at Mendon hosted the forestry and nursery contests. Salisbury put on the meats contest. While Brunswick and Northwestern have already been holding their own contests in the past, this was a first for Keytesville and Salisbury.

The event was exceptionally well accepted in its first year. Brenda Smith, Norborne FFA advisor, commented that she is "really happy when I can work with so many teams at one time." Terry Jenkins, Malta Bend advisor, thought the contest was "competitive and well run."

Bob Knight, Brunswick FFA advisor, stressed that the contest was an educational one. "Students have the opportunity to learn about a variety of agricultural topics and gain experience that they can use in an agricultural career." Knight also felt that the cooperation between the county chapters was very important. He said, "No single one of our schools could have put on this size of contest. It took working together to make it a success."

Dennis Croy, Keytesville FFA advisor said that the size of the event was impressive. "It really took a lot of hard work and planning to get ready for the big day.

Winners in each division were: dairy—Chillicothe; entomology—Rich Hill; livestock—Malta Bend; soils—Clopton; forestry—Brunswick; nursery—Northwestern; and meats—Clopton.

High individuals for the contests were Chris Lenger of Salisbury, entomology; Tim Bonderer and Lynne Toliber of Chillicothe and Malta Bend in dairy; Justin Malter from Malta Bend in livestock; Doug Gooding of Clopton in soils; Cade Thompson of Chillocothe in forestry; Heidi Stanley of Northwestern in nursery. (Jonel McKenzie, Keytesville Reporter)

Ohio

Ag For a Day

The Miami East, Ohio, FFA held their seventh annual Ag Day on May 12, 1989. This year it was held at Mr. and Mrs. Dewaine Grube's farm in Miami County.

The chapter sent several members the day before to the local schools that were invited to come to the event. They told the children about what is grown on a farm, what work is done on the farm, and what they could expect at Ag Day. They also instructed the youngsters what they could do, how to dress and to bring a sack lunch.

Ag Day is quite a learning experience for all. They see cows, pigs, poultry, sheep, horses, how to shear sheep, steam engine and thresher machine and the growing of cattle.

Each grade has it's own kiddie tractor pull and gets to milk a cow, watch how a threshing machine works, and take a ride on a horse.

The FFA furnished cookies and milk to go with the student's lunches. Before going back to their elementary school, they took a hayride to a state park and took a nature walk before loading up and going home. (Scott Maxson, Reporter)

Oregon

Speaker Run Off

Members of the McKay, Oregon, FFA participated in a public speaking contest hosted by the Capital City Exchange club. Members started competing six months ago with two members per month competing in a speak-off.

The first place winners, Jeff Paphe and Wendy Garrison, received a plaque and a $100 Savings Bond. Second place winners, CR Boge and Christine Richardson, received a plaque and a $50 Savings Bond.

Arkansas

Beans Buster

When 15-year-old Kyle Luebke of DeWitt, Arkansas, took to the soybean fields last spring, he probably didn't realize he'd become a yield champion—and possibly the youngest in the rankings' history.

DeWitt, in southern Arkansas County on the agriculturally productive Grand Prairie, is home to many "super farmers," as termed by the local farm supply cooperative, Stuttgart Co-op Buyers Association. The SFA-affiliated Stuttgart store's satellite cooperative in DeWitt sold the award-winning seed to Kyle for planting.

"Kyle's a sharp young man all-around, and certainly in agriculture," says Ken Gilbert, Arkansas sales manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred International, the soybean breeding company that produced the award

winning seed planted by Kyle. "He takes his jobs on the farm very seriously. He knows his business, and you can tell it in his performance."

Reared on a farm by dad, Ronnie, and mom Dorothy, farming is in Kyle's blood. He's also managed to squeeze in education on top of his practical experience, as a student of vocational agriculture and the DeWitt chapter of FFA.

Kyle first gained statewide attention when Pioneer Hi-Bred International named him the winner of the Pioneer Soybean Yield Contest of Arkansas. He managed a yield of 68.82 bushels per acre of Pioneer's brand 9581 in 1988. The state average for bushel-per-acre soybean production is usually somewhere in the mid- 20's.

Not only did the yield win the Arkansas contest hands down, top farms in a five-state area couldn't match it, either.

Kyle, his parents, brother Keith and sister Stacy farm the 1,000 acre Gillcoate farm near Lodge Corner, a warm, friendly "wide spot in the road" that serves as a center for agriculture in the heart of cash crop country. Arkansas leads the nation in rice production, and sits among the top ten states in harvests of soybeans, wheat, oats and other cash crops. Kyle lives and works in the middle of this Arkansas "heartland."

The Luebke operation includes rice and winter wheat as well as soybeans. Many years of farming, including eight on the Gillcoate place, has kept Ronnie busy, and son Kyle interested in his dad's chosen livelihood.

Kyle's father's association with such local agricultural leaders as Lester Gillcoate and the late Buck Lumsden has helped introduce Kyle to the best in the business of crops production. Apparently, some of those veterans' farming abilities wore off on him.

Already an astute businessman, Kyle won't give away many "secrets" about his production success. Dad Ronnie, though, doesn't mind passing along Kyle's tips to other would-be champion growers, young or old.

"Actually, we treated the field planted in the contest beans just like we do our other soybeans," Ronnie explained. "The high production field does lie in an area where an old straw stack used to be. Whenever the old timers would thresh rice, the machine would throw out straw that eventually enriched the soil. We suspect that the site of the straw stack had something to do with the high yields."

Kyle's contest rules required a planting on 20 acres. The best acre was then cut and verified for yield by county agent Joel Ferguson, Ronnie said. The whole field didn't reach the near-70 yield mark, so "the old straw stack" could be part of the secret, Ferguson concurs.

Meticulous record-keeping and proper analysis of data have also helped the Luebke's manage their extraordinary yields. Planting specifications that seemed to work best for high yields, Ronnie said, were 8 to 10 seeds per foot , and sowing on 30-inch rows. (Jeffrey Tennant)

Ohio

Fifty Banquets in a Row

The Fairbanks, Ohio, FFA recently held their 50th annual banquet. Their theme was "50 Years of Learning and Doing. 50 More of Living and Serving."

The gymnasium was elaborately decorated with many antiques such as a horse-drawn wagon and plow.

Also decorating the gym was a 60-foot banner containing names of FFA members since 1939 to the present year. A slide show covering chapter activities since 1959 was shown.

State Representative Joan Lawrence presented national FFA officer, Warren Boeger, with an Ohio legislative citation before she received the Fairbanks Honorary Chapter Degree.

Over 350 parents, members and guests attended the FFA banquet. (Matt Burns, Reporter)

California

Week of Work

The North Monkay County, California, Chapter held an Agriculture Week at the high school to celebrate National Agriculture Week. Posters and signs were put around school to inform and get support from the students.

Class competitions were held all week including wheelbarrow decorating, wheelbarrow races, hay stacking, and roping contest. This helped in recruiting more FFA members and informing others about FFA.

Members worked hard in making this a great week. (Karen DeBelle, Reporter)

(Continued on Page 48)

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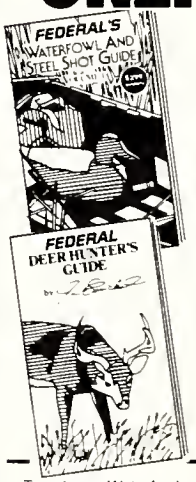

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FFA In Action

Governor Hunt accepted the invitation to speak during National FFA Week for a school assembly. He even included reference to George Washington (FFA's patron saint) during his remarks.

Alabama

Governor Goes To School

The Brewer "Blue" FFA Chapter had a special guest during the observance of National FFA Week. Alabama Governor Guy Hunt spoke at a special assembly program at Brewer High School. The Governor urged the 1,100 students gathered in the gym not to take the easy way, but to unselfishly make the tough decisions that would have a positive impact on themselves and on society. "The only way you can have the things you want in the future is to prepare for it now. Take the hard courses," he urged.

"The easy thing for George Washington to have done would have been to sit back and just let things go on as they were. He was up in years and he was wealthy. But he wasn't just thinking about himself, but those who would come after him.

Governor Hunt, a native of Holly Pond in rural Cullman county, grew up on a farm and has been involved in agriculture all his life. The governor made room in his schedule to speak to the Brewer students at the invitation of Kevin Caudle, president of the school's FFA chapter and a member of the same church as the governor. At the conclusion of his speech, Caudle, on behalf of the FFA, presented the governor an Honorary Chapter Farmer Award, a gold watch, and an FFA hat. Also attending and speaking at the assembly was FFA state vice president, Shane Black, of Clements High School. (Don Rowe, Advisor)

Indiana

Safe Subjects

The Connersville, Indiana, FFA Chapter presented a safety program to four grade schools in Fayette County and reached approximately 800 students. The areas covered included tractor safety, grain bin safety, safety in the home and prevention of problems.

The area of tractor safety included demonstrations of the injuries that are a result of carelessness around a PTO. A drill was attached to a pedal tractor and a cloth was allowed to drape across the PTO shaft with the shield both in and out of place. Also, two students were chosen from the class and allowed to try and catch a balloon. The child designated as the person who remembered safety rules was allowed to use their hands and the other person could not because the number one body part injured is the arm.

For the grain bin safety a mock grain bin was built and filled with grain. A doll was placed inside and the grain was allowed to flow out to show how quickly a person can become entrapped.

For safety in the home the speech was about preventing accidents in the home by keeping things cleaned up. Poisons were also discussed and Mr. Yuck stickers were passed out.

The schools that were included in this presentation included: Fayette Central, St. Gabriel, Everton and Alquina. The safety committee consisted of: Joey Bean, Jenny Charles, Joe Erlewein, Tom Ritter and Matt Willhelm. Chairmen for the committee were: Scott L. Caldwell and David Edwards. (Nancy Precht, Reporter)

Ohio

Tree Commission

The Oak Harbor, Ohio, FFA Chapter has been busy again this spring planting trees for the Oak Harbor Tree Commission. The purpose of the tree commission is to eliminate old and diseased trees from the streets of the village and replace them with new, smaller ornamental trees to help beautify the village.

FFA president Cliff Mesker and vice president Chris Nissen planted the ceremonial tree for the tree commission in Arbor Day ceremonies. The FFA Chapter has planted a total of 72 new trees over the past two years. (Margie Ray, Repoter)

Ohio

Assistants' Night

Fairfield Union, Ohio, FFA held its annual "assistants' night." This is an evening when the elected officers and committee chairman are replaced by their assistants to run the meeting.

The assistants did an excellent job running the meeting which really got interesting when Larry Hoover took over as our special feature. Larry is a resident of Millersport, Ohio, and is a member of the local Young Farmers.

Larry talked to the members about how cautious to be with anhydrous ammonia, the symptoms of eye injury, the pounds of it to apply and how anhydrous ammonia is formed. He also talked about what materials are used while spraying, why it is sprayed, the cost of it and how much money he makes off of it. The high school chapter is looking forward to having Larry back to speak with us again. (Chad Buckalew, Reporter)

(Continued on Page 50)

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South Dakota and Wisconsin

Interstate Exchange

The Bowdle, South Dakota, FFA Chapter recently completed a chapter officer exchange with the FFA in Spencer, Wisconsin. Five Bowdle officers including Tammy Bieber, Mark Harner, Dale Hoerner, Jerrad Hoffman and Karen Wolff went to Spencer, February 16-20 for a return exchange after five of their officers visited Bowdle last September.

While in Spencer, our members stayed with host families and participated in activities with them. The officers attended school in Spencer all day on Friday and Monday morning and made presentations to all six of the agricultural education classes about Bowdle, our school, our ag program and our FFA chapter.

The group toured the National Farm Medicine Center which is located only eight miles from Spencer in Marshfield. At the Farm Medicine Center, members

Members from the Bowdle, South Dakota, and Spencer, Wisconsin, FFA Chapters toured the Land O'Lakes cheese manufacturing plant in Spencer during an interstate chapter officer exchange held between the two chapters. They observed bulk cheese being processed into the individually wrapped cheese slices.

visited with staff about medical concerns specific to rural America and toured their research facility.

Members also toured a large corporate dairy farm, as well as the Land O'Lakes cheese manufacturing plant in Spencer.

Besides all the tours and presentations, much of the students' educational experiences came from just being a part of another community and school system for a few days. All the students involved enjoyed their experiences very much and brought back a lot of new ideas.

Oregon

Local FFA Members Learn the Bio-Tech Ropes Under Columbia Basin Agricultural Scientists Supervision

Members of Pendleton, Oregon, FFA participated in a "Frontiers in Research" program and rubbed shoulders with scientists at the USDA-ARS Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center. The program was conducted on four Saturdays with six scientists directing lectures as well as experiments and laboratory exercises.

Members got to conduct experiments of their own.

Students explored the fascinating world of microbiology under the direction of USDA-ARS's Dr. Hal Collins as they probed the seasonal dynamics of soil microbes and their relationships to long-term tillage and residue management systems. USDA-ARS's Dr. Betty Klepper, plant physiologist, and Dr. Ron Rickman, soil scientist, headed the section of plant growth and development in which the students learned how wheat plants develop.

Dr. Pamela Awer, Plant Breeder for the Oregon State University's Department of Crop Science, ran the plant breeding session and gave students hands on experience with cross pollinating wheat to give them an idea of the processes used in plant breeding. Dr. Richard Smiley taught a session about plant pathology where they learned about plant diseases and their impact on agricutlure.

When asked what he liked most, Casey Rosenburg of the Pendleton Chapter said, "I liked the study of micro-biology. They taught us about fungi and how to control them in crop production."

Marty Campbell said, "I liked the way we got into the application of what we are being taught." (Ben Peal, Reporter)

Massachusetts

Flowers On Film

Bristol, Massachusetts, FFA Chapter carried out two BOAC projects on one day.

Project number one consisted of planting a large amount of flowers in front of Meadowland, an estate in Taunton, Massachusetts. An overseer of the work commented that he was shocked at how quickly and capably the project was done. This project was filmed by a local cable television station.

The second project involved clearing brush and weeds at a local cemetery. This project was more difficult because the cemetery had been neglected until recently when the chapter began the project.

BOAC committee co-chairmen are Jose Rodriguez and Erin Humes.

New York

Tree Honors

The St. Johnsville, New York, FFA was the district winner of the 1988-89 Arbor Day competition. To receive this award, members distributed and planted tree seedlings, demonstrated tree planting to their grammar school and worked on beautifying the cemetery.

Chuck Boyle, Jason Campione and Dean Dingman, along with advisor Ben Conte, attended the trip to the Governor's Mansion on April 20, 1989. The students were each given a packet containing various kinds of trees. The members also met Assemblyman Paul Tonko and State Ag Commissioner Richard McGuire.

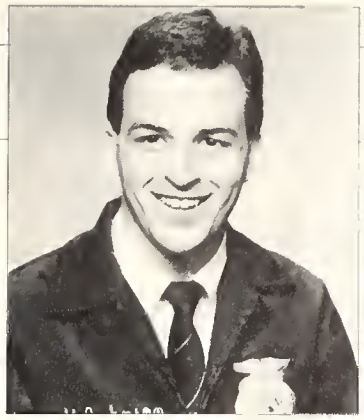
Colorado

Sign-Posts

Constructing street signs was a BOAC project of the Hi-Plains FFA Chapter in Seibert, Colorado. Members made the signs and put them up at every intersection of town.

My Turn

with Jeff Johnson



One word silenced a heated debate taking place during a Texas area convention this past April. The debate was over delegate representation at national FFA convention—the chilling word was *secede*. A man in the crowd suggested that their state break away from the national organization. It was more the voice of frustration speaking than a threat, but he still said secede. I know. I was there when it happened.

FFA members and advisors in Texas and other states with large FFA memberships are upset. Should they be? You must decide for yourself.

To understand the situation facing us now, we must look back at the 1988 National FFA Convention. Eighteen of nineteen constitutional amendments were passed by the voting delegates, sending the winds of change sweeping across our organization. The one failing amendment dealt with a reorganization of delegates so that states with larger memberships would receive more representation.

Some states, including Texas, would have received more delegates. It seemed fair enough; the more members you have the more votes you should have. But the motion failed. As members of a democratic organization, we abide by majority rule, and this time the majority of delegates said "No!" That's the way the system works, but even though the amendment died, we can't ignore the situation.

Many people saw the failure of this amendment as a victory– they are the real losers. Now those same winds blowing a new era of progress and vision into the FFA have spawned a tornado.

State associations with 1,000 members or less receive two delegates to the National Convention. No one has a problem with that. But if 1,000 = 2 delegates, should 55,000 = 6 delegates, which is how many Texas had last year? Does that match your definition of fair?

Why do they want more delegates? Currently Texas has 15 percent of the total FFA membership in the country, and in turn, would like 15 percent of the voting delegates to the national convention. They place such a high importance on these members because the decisions that are made by the delegates obviously affect them more as an association than any other state.

The FFA members in Texas are just like the members in your state. They are hard-working, dedicated young people who take a great deal of pride in their blue and gold jackets. Agriculture class enrollments are skyrocketing and FFA membership gets larger every year. These folks are doing it right and we have much to learn from their example.

There is something being done about this fairness, or equity, issue. An Equity Committee has been formed to look at the fairness of delegate distribution and all other programs and services of the National FFA Organization. The feeling of the committee is that if there is inequity, or unfairness, in the FFA, those things should be identified and corrected. This committee will make recommendations to the FFA Board of Directors in July (I am writing this in June) as to what steps should be taken on the delegate issue and other equity issues. It could happen that a new delegate system, involving more members in a more meaningful way, could be proposed to the delegates this fall, and that's where you come in.

I realize that if you're sitting in Vero Beach, Florida or Pullman, Washington or anywhere in between, this may not interest you at all—it's too distant. But it affects us because it's more than an issue about votes and delegates and amendments. It's about working together, compromise and cooperation.

Keep up on this issue. Let your delegates to national convention know what you think. They represent you and they will be voting on topics that affect your organization.

We have so much to learn from each other and so much to work for—*together*! Let's not be afraid to try something new.

One of the main focuses of our organization is cooperation. If the FFA truly is based on leadership, citizenship, and *cooperation*, we will work together to find an answer. Won't we? •••

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Joke Page

Two men were in a skyscraper wasting time when one man said to the other, *"Watch this."* He threw his watch out of a nearby window, ran down 35 flights of stairs, and caught the watch outside before it hit the ground.

"That's nothing," said the other man. He threw his watch out of the window, walked down the stairs, ordered and ate a hot dog from a nearby vendor, and caught the watch before it hit the ground.

"How did you do that?" asked the first man.

"Easy," replied the man. *"My watch is half an hour slow."*

James Stubbs
Dillon, South Carolina

"I was expecting a kinder, gentler report card."

"My brother is a professional boxer."
"Really? What is his name?"
"Rembrandt!"
"Why Rembrandt?"
"Because he is always on the canvas."

Chris Jones
Paducah, Kentucky

Last weekend my friends were hanging out in a parking lot as a police officer pulled up and said, *"You boys aren't loitering are you?"*

"No, sir," I replied, *"we never throw paper on the ground!"*

Sonny Talley
St. Amant, Louisiana

Teacher: Give me an example of a collective noun.
Pupil: Garbage can.

Bobbie Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Q. Spell dead grass in three letters.
A. HAY

Scott Lanclog
Franklin, Louisiana

Q. Why did the chicken cross the road?
A. To show the possum it could be done!

Brannon Jackson
Lynn, Alabama

An old hunter preparing his own shells, rammed in a charge of salt.

"Why" asked his hunting buddy?

"Well," he said, *"when I drop those bucks way out in the woods, it keeps the meat from spoiling until I get there."*

Trevor Wuethrick
Greenwood, Wisconsin

A young man rushed to the telephone and dialed the family doctor.

"Doctor," he said when he got an answer, *"you have to help. My aunt's pregnant, and her pains are coming fast!"*

"Is this her first baby?" asked the doctor.

"No, sir. This is her only nephew."

Carlos Lopez
Selma, California

Q. Why did it take the bachelor $100.00 to wash his clothes at the laundromat?
A. Everything said "Wash Separately!"

Perry Greenway
Weatherford, Texas

Q. What is the only job you start at the top?
A. Well-digging.

Brian Cole
Rome, Pennsylvania

Patient: Doctor! I feel like a deck of cards.
Doctor: Sit down. I'll deal with you later.

Sabrina D. Brown
Union Springs, Alabama

Charlie, the Greenhand

"My Dad said we have a dry cow. How much skin moisturizer can I get with $1.73?"

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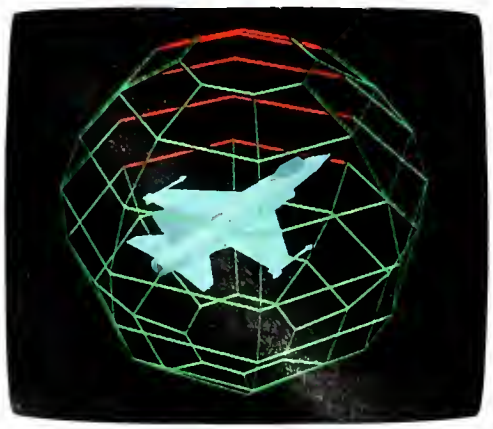

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